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DELEGATION CONTINUES ON C.A. PEACE TOUR

Arias Demands 'Action'

PA201429 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1210 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Central American peace undoubtedly depends on the Nicaraguan Government and the nine commanders, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez has said. Arias, who held a joint news conference with Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal after the departure from Costa Rica of the Contadora and Support Groups foreign ministers and the OAS and UN secretaries general, said: Our words and deeds must be consistent with one another. He accused the Sandinist government of not practicing what it preaches.

Prior to 6 June 1986, Nicaragua had said that it was willing to sign the Contadora Document. However, at the same time that it was saying this -- with the document proposing the democratization of the Central American countries -- the Sandinist regime was becoming more radical and increasingly restrictive on society, Arias said. This showed inconsistency between what the Nicaraguans offered the Contadora Group and what they were doing. This cynicism, this gap between what is said and what is done, is hypocritical. It has made everyone skeptical, the president said. Costa Rica discusses the peace efforts, it is skeptical and reserved about the good intentions of those efforts. There is reason for approaching the efforts in this way, he said.

In explaining Costa Rica's urgent desire to have concrete steps taken in connection with the dialogue for a negotiated peace in the region, Arias said: We will not continue the discussions, because to continue talks and not take actions is unfaithful to the spirit of dialogue. I thus concluded my participation in Contadora. We know what must be done; let us do it, he said emphatically. In a clear reference to the Managua regime, Arias said that there is no point in continuing talks about something that is clear and can be achieved with good will.

Arias proposed that in addition to calling a cease-fire, the Nicaraguan Government make substantial changes leading to free elections within an adequate period of time. Also, aid to the contras should be suspended, he said. He told the eight Contadora and Support Group foreign ministers and the OAS and UN secretaries general that a timetable for compliance with the democratization process established in the 21 objectives of the Contadora document should be established. He said that it is not necessary for Nicaragua to withdraw its lawsuit against Costa Rica at the International Court of Justice to begin a democratization process.

Arias said that during the meeting he reaffirmed Costa Rica's position on the Central American conflict, recalling that on 8 May 1986 he proposed the establishment of an alliance for democracy and freedom. He said that in his speech at the United Nations in September, he stated that Contadora had not failed, and that Costa Rica would support any effort to find a peaceful, negotiated solution in Central America. He said that this shows that Costa Rica does not favor war, that this is nothing new, and that the meeting was an opportunity to reaffirm that Costa Rica will not continue talks for the sake of holding talks, because this is not faithful to the spirit of dialogue.

The time to take action has arrived. It is up to Nicaragua to take it, Arias said. He said that the eight foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups and the OAS and UN Secretaries general must speak clearly to the Nicaraguan Goverment.

He stressed the need to see a gesture or proof that Nicaragua will advance toward the essence of the Contadora Document: a democratization process that will lead the Central American countries toward pluralist democracies like Costa Rica's.

Arias, Madrigal Offer Proposal

PA202244 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] The Costa Rican Government will decide at which forum it will present the peace proposal presented to the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups and the UN and OAS secretaries general.

The proposal, which consists of the establishment of a platform necessary to reach peace, development, and democratization, is not written down in any document. It is based on the historical principles that Costa Rica has experienced. Nevertheless, the most serious problem is Nicaragua, because even though other area countries have not brought their democratic institutions to perfection, they have indeed showed a clear willingness to accomplish this goal.

The Costa Rican proposal consists of a democratization process whereby a calendar would be set to verify Nicaragua's actions aimed at a Nicaraguan willingness to embark on the path to democracy, such as a cease fire, in which actions are being conducted simultaneously to allow eliminating the pressures hindering the Sandinist regime in this area.

Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal said that if the Contadora and Support Groups and the UN and OAS secretaries general decide to put forth all their power and influence, they can make Nicaragua take the basic steps so that this democratization process will become a reality. The democratization process proposed by Costa Rica encompasses all matters. Therefore, it should be complied with everywhere, and human rights should be respected in all areas, Madrigal said.

Madrigal said that although Nicaragua is the most serious problem in the regional conflict, the Costa Rican proposal is addressed to all countries in the area.

Regarding the simultaneity of actions, Madrigal said that it must exist since there are multiple actors in the Central American drama: Therefore, we cannot think in a unilateral [words indistinct] or action. On the contrary, the wishes of all the sectors of this process must be met; thus, it does not exclude the United States or the contras.

Although there was no specific declaration about the Costa Rican peace proposal to the eight Contadora and Support Group foreign ministers and the UN and OAS secretaries general, it was received favorably by the group. The first step in the process should be a change of attitude by the Sandinist regime, a cease fire, and free elections. Therefore, the Sandinists would have to begin the dialogue with the forces opposing it that are living in Nicaragua, Arias said.

Arias insisted that unattainable or impossible things should not be requested because nothing constructive would be offered this way. He was satisfied with the favorable reaction to his peace proposal.

Ortega Reviews Meeting

PA201643 Managua International Service in Spanish 1504 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Statement to the press by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega at Managua's Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport on 19 January -- recorded]

[Text] We have just seen off the UN and OAS secretaries general and the Contadora and Support Group's foreign ministers. With this we close a historic meeting for Latin America, attended by the UN and OAS secretaries general and eight Latin American foreign ministers, who have been working for a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict.

We had frank, clear, and direct discussions with them. We listened to their views and ideas on how to work for peace and prevent a military escalation in Central America. We have disclosed to them a number of measures that Nicaragua is proposing to contribute to the Central American peace efforts. These measures, which we revealed in a communique released this afternoon, are not interdependent. They have been set forth in such a way that either all of them can be implemented -- and that would be splendid, excellent -- or efforts must be made to see which one of them finds a consensus for implementation.

No one -- least of all the Nicaraguans -- has placed great expectations on reaching peace immediately in Central America as a result of today's meeting. No one has created the expectations that peace is a step away or around the corner. The proposal is to prevent a further escalation of the war in Central America. At the same time that this mission is traveling through the Central American countries, the U.S. Government is continuing to advance a policy of terror against Nicaragua. The United States ignores the ruling of the International Court of Justice and deploys warships to Central America. In other words, it is promoting a policy of war. It infiltrates mercenary forces to damage the Nicaraguan people's economy and murder workers. Therefore, we are not building up our expectations that this mission will bring peace to Central America tomorrow. This is not the case. I repeat: This effort seeks foremost to contain a military escalation, and in consequence, to pave the way to peace, negotiation, and a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

During the fruitful, rich exchange of views are submitted Nicaragua's proposals and actions, which we are certain the Contadora and Support Groups and the OAS and UN secretaries general will examine in depth. We are confident that the Central American leaders, particularly the presidents of Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Savador, will find these measures to be constructive and positive measures and actions by Nicaragua. They have no propagandistic application. They are realistic measures designed to prevent more suffering by the Central American and Nicaraguan peoples and to seek consensus among the Central American governments to -- with the support of the international community -- find a peaceful solution in the conflict.

This effort in Central America does not negate the efforts we are compelled to make -- and have set forth to the peace mission -- to immediately begin talks with the United States in order to reach firm agreements on the security issues that the United States, which feels threatened by the Sandinist revolution, so often cites.

We have discussed this, but while these peace actions are promoted, the U.S. Government is promoting hostile actions. Therefore, communications must be established with those who are mainly responsible for the Central American crisis, which is causing death to thousands of Central Americans, damaging the Central American economy, and destabilizing Central America, thus damaging Central American democracy.

Democracy cannot be viewed as an abstract formulation without any link to reality. Democracy is party of reality. There can be no democracy without sovereignty, self-determination, independence, economic stability, and peace.

This is how we turned another page in the peace efforts Nicaragua is making to end the Nicaraguan people's suffering as a result of the war imposed on us by the U.S. Government.

Delegate Meets Cerezo

PA200400 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0235 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The 10 members of an international peace mission for Central America arrived tonight in Guatemala to meet with President Vinicio Cerezo and Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, and the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups arrived at La Aurora Airport, where they were received with all honors and protocol.

They were immediately taken to the National Palace, where they will meet with Cerezo and Quinonez Amezquita.

The mission, which has already visited Panama and Costa Rica, arrived from Nicaragua on a tour that will continue tomorrow when they leave early in the morning for El Salvador and later Honduras [as received]. [passage omitted]

Officials Meet Azcona

PA202227 Paris AFP in Spanish 1852 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Jan (AFP) -- Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras today said that the success or failure of the peace negotiations in the region "depend more on the Central American countries than on the Contadora Group."

Lopez Contreras made this statement this morning in Tegucigalpa when he met the eight Contadora and Support Group foreign ministers, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, who have been visiting the Central American capital cities since Monday.

Following their arrival at the Toncontin Airport, the "mission of the 10" went to the Presidential Palace where they participated in a work session with President Jose Azcona, Lopez Contreras, and Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regalado Hernandez.

Before the meeting began, Lopez Contreras said that the Honduran Government maintains "a prudent optimism" regarding this new peace mission.

Lopez Contreras said that in any case, "the success or failure of the mission depends on the political will" of the states rather than "the will of the mediators."

Regarding the objective of the meeting, Lopez said that "there is no doubt that they will discuss the possibility of resuming the talks (regarding the Contadora Document) once the obstacles have been eliminated" by Nicaragua.

According to Lopez Contreras the obstacles are: The charges presented by Nicaragua before the International Court of Justice in The Hague against Honduras and Costa Rica; the human rights problem; and the problem of democratization." [quotation marks as received]

When asked whether the issue of the presence of the contras in Honduras would be discussed, Lopez Contreras said that Honduran territory is being used "improperly by the Nicaraguan insurgent troops as well as the Salvadoran insurgent groups."

Despite the strict security measures that surround the visit of the group, members of the Honduran Christian Democratic youth organization were able to get close to the Presidential Palace with a placard on which was written: "Welcome peace ambassadors. We support you."

Members of the Liberal Revolutionary Democratic Movement (M-Lider), dissidents of the ruling Liberal Party, also displayed placards expressing their support for the Contadora Group and charged that the peacemaking efforts in the region are being subject to "undercover sabotage."

Likewise, the Women for Peace Movement took advantage of the arrival of the visiting foreign ministers to protest the presence of the Nicaraguan contras in the country. Their placard read: "Honduran territory is not for rent nor can it be borrowed. Gringo troops and contras out."

In conclusion, the Honduran Human Rights Committee (CODEH) charged that around midnight Monday four youths were arrested by the secret police "for the crimes of attempting to place a placard welcoming the Contadora Group."

Azcona Message

PA210134 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1850 GMT 20 Jan 87

["Copy" of letter from Honduran President Jose Azcona to Contadora Group presidents]

[Text] Presidency of the Republic

Honduras, Central America

Tegucigalpa, 20 January 1987

Mr President and dear friend:

Today I had the pleasure of exchanging views with your [Panama's] foreign minister Dr Jorge Abadia Arias, during the historic visit of the inter-American peace mission, which is comprised of the Contadora and Support Groups' foreign ministers accompanied by the OAS and UN secretaries general, who were especially invited by the aforementioned foreign ministers of friendly nations.

I sincerely hope that the Central American tour of these highly qualified representatives of democratic and peaceful governments will attain the results that peace-loving men hope for for our people's benefit, the security of nations, and prestige for our regional legal system. The success of any peace initiative undeniably depends on the political will of each and every one of the Central American governments and the amount of sincerity with which we state our goals and legitimate interests.

Mr President, in order for you to have a summarized idea of my government's views and willingness concerning the regional situation and perspectives of attaining a political solution through constructive negotiation, allow me to state the following points:

1. The boycott of the Contadora Group's negotiating process has been caused by Nicaragua, by diverting the Central American issue to the International Court of Justice. This action makes it impossible for Honduras to exert itself in political and judicial forums.

2. The outlook for an immediate renewal of the negotiations is entirely up to Nicaragua, because Honduras is still pledged to attaining a diplomatic solution. Honduras has nothing to negotiate in this regard.

3. If the negotiations are ever renewed, the Central American states must assume the political responsibility that is necessary to attain an agreement which proves satisfactory for all of them, through Contadora's sponsorship.

4. If the Central American governments consider it convenient for Contadora to issue a new proposal, the Honduran Government believes that the most successful proposal is the one which has been previously approved by all the parties involved.

5. The procedure we suggest would not weaken the peace initiative, and it would preclude weakening disagreements between the mediators and parties involved, disagreements that eventually lead to a useless struggle to attain greater international prestige or impose a particular view.

6. The Honduran Government hopes that all the states which have asserted their willingness to participate in the peace efforts will maintain a serene behavior and pledge an unbiased willingness to establish an understanding between governments which are involved in a dispute. States which offer to mediate in a dispute cannot possibly take sides in favor of or against those involved in the negotiation.

7. Partial proposals which only satisfy one of the parties' political or security interests are unacceptable. A complete agreement will guarantee that the solution will settle all the states' problems. Honduras can clearly distinguish the difference between peace agreements and mechanisms to maintain peace. We seek to participate in negotiations which attain peace agreements that establish the terms for a durable understanding on basic matters. The mechanisms to execute the agreement are a secondary matter.

9. [number as heard] Referring to basic matters, Honduras believes it is necessary for the Sandinist government to assume a pledge and effectively implement democracy, disarmament, and its nonalignment with the Soviet Union, Cuba, and other communist bloc countries. The Sandinist regime's authoritarianism, arms buildup, and alignment with the Soviet bloc represent the factors which cause insecurity and instability throughout the region.

10. We do not worry if Central America includes political regimes which carry out structural changes that are the result of their people's free vote and their military development is maintained within the limits agreed upon in a regional agreement.

11. The rapprochement and development of our security relations with the United States is a logical consequence, and it is Honduras' natural reaction to the threat we perceive from Nicaragua. It is not reasonable for Honduras alone to face the Soviet-Cuban challenge hidden behind the Sandinist government, which has made it possible to arm and train almost 150,000 men.

12. Honduras is not willing to militarize its society. Therefore, we will maintain special security relations with the United States as long as Nicaragua represents a threat to our security and for our way of life and government.

13. I do not believe that it would be realistic or constructive to deny that the East-West conflict is the factor of international law currently deepening the regional crisis. It is necessary to admit this and to make every possible effort to withdraw Central America from that conflict.

14. There is no doubt that the Sandinist regime would not face military pressure if it decided to govern democratically and break its political-military alliance with the Soviet bloc.

15. Insurgent movements would no longer be justified if there were an authentically democratic process in Nicaragua.

16. In this regard, Honduras does not encourage any insurgent groups to harass the Nicaraguan Government from its territory; nevertheless, we will not use our limited resources to protect the security of a government that represents a threat to Honduras. Nicaragua has supported, supplied, and served as a base for subversives from neighboring countries. If Nicaragua is truly seeking peace, it must cease this interventionist policy.

17. The border patrols, inspection and vigilance forces, as well as other mechanisms will only be effective if the causes for insurgent movements disappear in Nicaragua. There is no international conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua; there are tensions that have resulted from the civil war taking place in Nicaragua which overflow to neighboring countries.

18. Honduras will not utilize its Armed Forces to attack Nicaragua, nor will it allow another state to launch an armed invasion from its territory against that country.

19. I know that the tensions that result from the civil war in Nicaragua expose us to provocations that could result in a direct confrontation. Therefore, we have not only followed a foreign policy of serenity, making every effort to keep tension at its lowest level, but our military action has been moderate and limited to protecting our sovereignty when our territory has been invaded.

20. We do not want a war. We are not seeking a war. Our Armed Forces will only act in legitimate defense, and our neighbors know this. It would be a terrible mistake of unforeseeable consequences to attempt to attack Honduras with impunity.

21. The Sandinist Army has carried out countless incursions and attacks on Honduras, the most serious being those carried out in September 1985 and March and December 1986. I am concerned over those senseless attacks. The Sandinists must know that they cannot obtain international permission to commit such aggressions and go unpunished. Honduras' moderation should not lead the Nicaraguan Government to miscalculate our capacity to respond.

22. Honduras believes that the natural forum for the handling of the Central American crisis is the OAS. We congratulate ourselves for the participation of Secretary General Baena Soares, which demonstrates that our organization has the institutional capacity and sufficient vigor and independence to support the institutional rights of its top exponent's political initiative. This is why Contadora, by virtue of its perpetual ties to the OAS, will use all of its moral and political foundations to ensure the fulfillment of the commitments made on 12 July 1979 by the Nicaraguan Reconstruction Junta before the OAS.

23. The presence of Secretary Perez de Cuellar, another Latin American just like Ambassador Baena Soares, contributes to the regional effort the vast experience of his organization and the ties that exist between America and other countries of the world which, upon request from us, could make a positive contribution to the verification and control of the agreements made by the two sides in question. [5-second break in reception] honoring the agreement made and inspired by the negotiating process carried out by Contadora. The Honduran Government has deemed it wise to call on the secretaries general so that along with the five Central American countries they can analyze -- as soon as conditions allow -- the establishment and functioning of the three mechanisms created for the maintenance of peace in Central America. These are the Political Commission of International Verification, the International Security Commission, and the Commission for the Economic and Social Development of Central America.

I reiterate the Honduran Government's and people's deepest regard for the notable interest and effort you have displayed along with the other Latin American presidents of the Contadora Group and Support Group in favor of democracy and peace in Central America.

I trust that these demonstrations of American solidarity will be rewarded by the advent of a new historic phase in which this region will enjoy the fruits of harmony, liberty, and security.

From the president with highest regard and special personal esteem.

[Signed] Jose Azcona Hoyo, president of Honduras

Group Arrives in El Salvador

PA202250 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1940 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The peace mission of 10 Latin American diplomats arrived today in San Salvador, from Tegucigalpa, on the fifth and last leg of its Central American tour.

The Contadora and Support Group foreign ministers, accompanied by the UN and OAS secretaries general, arrived in El Salvador at 1250 (1850 GMT).

The mission arrived in three planes: a UN plane, a Panamanian Air Force plane, and a Mexican Air Force plane.

Following their arrival at Ilopango Military Airport, located 12 km east of San Salvador, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said, "I have been well received in every country I have visited," adding that he could give "no more statements because this fells on the foreign ministers."

The visit to El Salvador by the 10 Latin American diplomats is part of the reactivation of the peacemaking efforts for Central America undertaken 4 years ago by the Contadora Group formed by Panama, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela.

The 10 high-ranking foreign officials were taken to the Presidental Palace to meet with President Jose Napoleon Duarte. Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta and Deputy Foreign Minister Joaquin Alexander Maza Martelli will also be present during the meeting.

Upon the arrival of the Contadora and Support Group foreign ministers and the UN and OAS secretaries general, Acevedo Peralta said that a democratization in Nicaragua is necessary to achieve peace in the region.

CAPUTO DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. FALKLAND MISSION

PY191838 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1630 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo affirmed today that "the Argentine Government has no information about negotiations" that newspapers are attributing to President Ronald Reagan's special envoy, Philip Habib, concerning the Malvinas issue in London.

In a communique released today, the San Martin Palace made public a statement by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo: Caputo is currently in Costa Rica participating in a meeting of the Contadora and Contadora Support Groups which are trying to find a solution to the Central American crisis.

Dispatches from international press agencies have reported that a trip by Philip Habib to London next Thursday might help to open negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom before 1 February, when the British unilateral declaration of an economic exclusion zone of 150 miles around the Malvinas goes into effect.

Caputo said that "the Argentine Government has no knowledge concerning the U.S. envoy's mission."

MARTINEZ: ALFONSIN-HABIB MEETINGS NOT 'FORESEEN'

PY201703 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1415 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (NA) -- Argentine Vice President Victor Martinez has said that he does not believe that the General Confederation of Labor [CGT] strike scheduled for 26 January will be lifted. He also said that the Argentine Government "does not want either friction or pressure" regarding the Malvinas "because we are always open to dialogue."

Martinez also said that "for the time being," no official meeting between U.S. Government envoy Philip Habib and President Raul Alfonsin is foreseen. [passage omitted]

LEADERS DEMAND COHERENT FALKLANDS POLICY

PY182054 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Jan 87 p 15

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Leaders of various political parties, including the Radical party, labour unions, religious sectors and retired military officers have signed a statement to be published next week demanding a clear government policy on the conflict with Britain over the Malvinas Islands and drastic measures against British interests.

The statement leaked to the press yesterday also called on the government to pull out of the Inter American Treaty on Reciprocal Assistance and abstain from taking part in the Unitas naval exercises with U.S. Navy vessels and other joint military manoeuvres which "serve the interests of dependency."

The statement came amid reports that President Raul Alfonsin was ready to waive demands that any talks with the British should include the issue of sovereignty over the islands.

The statement was to be issued in connection with the enforcement as from February 1 of the 150-mile fisheries conservation zone Britain was due to set up around the Malvinas.

The statement strongly condemned the new exclusion zone around the south Atlantic archipelago which it said "expresses the colonial policy of Britain and its ally the United States in the south Atlantic and is part of the strategic framework of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)."

The British decision "indicates their intention of controlling the natural resources of our seas, beginning with the fish and with the risk of extending it to oil," the statement said.

It demanded that the government "establish a clear policy aimed at reaffirming our sovereignty over the Malvinas and its surrounding waters."

To reinforce Argentina's negotiating capacity, the statement demanded that the government should not pay the "interest on our foreign debt corresponding to British banks and freeze enemy capitals and properties in our country."

It also called on the government to "adopt measures against the countries that negotiate fishing rights in our waters with the British crown."

Among the signatories of the statement were National Administrative Investigations Prosecutor Ricardo Molinas, Undersecretary of Teaching Activities Alfredo Bravo, former Foreign Ministry Human Rights Director Horacio Ravenna, the Secretary-General of the CTERA Teachers Union Wenceslao Arizcurena, former Supreme Court justice Ricardo Colombres, Intransigent deputy Raul Rabanaque Caballero, Priests Enzo Giustozzi and Antonio Puigjane, Methodist Bishop Federico Pagura and Pastors Jose de Luca and Jose Miguez Bonino.

The statement sponsored by the Argentine Peace Council was also signed by Army General Ernesto Lopez Meyer, president of the Military for Democracy Centre (CEMIDA), Colonels Horacio Ballester, Luis Perlinger, Cesar Diaz and Augusto Rattenbach.

Meanwhile, Lower House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Federico Storani yesterday played down the reports that Argentina was ready to waive its demands that talks with Britain on the Malvinas should include the sovereignty issue and that Argentine diplomats were holding preliminary talks with British diplomats in the United Nations.

"Officially there are no government-to-government contacts," Storani said.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON FALKLANDS EXCLUSION ZONE

PY202251 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2156 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (TELAM) -- Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena today stated that the civilian courts have not summoned members of the Armed Forces to testify since the approval of the statute of limitations law for charges against members of the Armed Forces who fought against subversion during the de facto government.

Jaunarena, who chatted with the press at the Government House after meeting with President Raul Alfonsin, said that there has been no decision about measures to be taken on 1 February, when Great Britain will impose its extension of the exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands.

In this respect, the minister said that the only measures that have been adopted so far are calling a session of the Military Committee and not releasing conscripts who have concluded their military training. He also indicated that depending on the circumstances, an evaluation will be made as to whether it is advisable to implement measures in February.

Regarding reports of a reduction in the number of English troops on the Malvinas, Jaunarena stated that we understand that this could be a demonstration of a more reasonable attitude on the part of Great Britain regarding the conflict, but that report has not been evaluated. [passage omitted]

MOTIVES OF BRITISH LICENSING PROCEDURE DISCUSSED

PY191419 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1058 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA) -- The British Government might have decided not to grant permits to fish near the Malvinas to third countries' governments, but it will grant them to private enterprises. The UCR [Radical Civic Union] administration has interpreted this as a "gesture" of goodwill to facilitate formal negotiations between London and Buenos Aires, and break the deadlock that has existed between the two countries since the 1982 war.

That information may have been passed by representatives of the Washington government to Argentine diplomats as part of the reserved talks those representatives are maintaining with delegates from both sides.

Should that decision actually be made, Argentina would keep open the possibility of bringing up the issue of sovereignty, a key point of the dispute, in future negotiations over fishing.

A government official explained here that "if Great Britain were to grant fishing licenses to a foreign government, it would imply the immediate recognition that both the islands and the surrounding waters belong to Great Britain."

He added: "If as the Americans say, London has decided to grant fishing licenses only to private enterprises, this should be interpreted as a small, perhaps a minimal gesture, but a gesture nonetheless."

On the other hand, rumors have been growing that talks are going on in Washington among Argentine, American, and British representatives.

UCR Deputy Federico Storani publicly admitted that such talks are under way when he referred to a possible rapprochement between the two countries, and the newspaper CLARIN made a similar assertion in its Sunday, 18 January, issue.

The newspaper, moreover, said that points of agreement may already exist between London and Buenos Aires as a basis to discuss matters related to fishing around the disputed south Atlantic archipelago.

The need to avoid belligerent incidents in the region, to protect the fishing resources, and the fact that no specific agreement on fishing can later grant sovereignty rights to either of the sides might be points of agreement between London and Buenos Aires.

A formula may already exist for a future agreement on fishing between Argentina and Great Britain. This formula may begin by stating that "despite our claims over sovereignty, we are willing to talk about fishing problems."

Along with these talks, which are picking up as we get closer to 1 February, the date on which Great Britain will in fact begin to protect fishing around the Malvinas, issues of internal politics in both countries are emerging. According to considerations made by another paper, those who are trying to bring about a rapprochement between the two countries have agreed that any internal electoral speculation must be avoided if a point of effective understanding is to be reached.

The newspaper LA NACION says that an Argentine Government official has heard someone say: "If the British and Argentines will allow internal electoral issues to prevail, it will be better not to start any talks."

That remark alludes to the fact that in Buenos Aires, as well as in London, there are those who are thinking about how the Argentine electorate would react to the onset of negotiations without the sovereignty issue, and the political dividend Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher could accrue from initiating the talks.

PAPER DENOUNCES UK MINISTER'S FALKLANDS VISIT

PY171329 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Jan 87 p 6

[Editorial: "A Visit That Should Have Been Avoided]

[Text] British Defense Minister George Younger has been visiting the Malvinas Islands since 11 January. According to unofficial British sources, defense Minister Younger will inspect UK military installations and review the troops stationed on the Malvinas Islands. However, a Defense Ministry spokesman has said that it is only a "familiarization visit." According to this source, Younger wishes "to learn first-hand what the British forces are doing" on the islands.

Argentines would have viewed with displeasure any visit the British defense minister paid to the Malvinas, but they are particularly displeased about this visit because it comes just a few days before the scheduled enforcement of a recent British Government decision by which it arbitrarily established a 150-mile "fishing preservation" zone around the Malvinas. In addition there is a 200-mile exclusion zone that cannot be entered by Argentine ships, but which ships from any other country can enter.

Moreover, the Argentine people are constantly reminded of the British Government's repeated refusal to comply with the almost-unanimous UN resolution that urges the two countries to seek a negotiated solution to the 150-year old conflict that originated with the illegal occupation of our territory by UK military forces. Recent statements by UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher have exacerbated the existing tension.

For this and many other reasons, Minister George Younger's visit to the Malvinas will only aggravate resentment and create new animosity. Much would have been gained if this so-called "familiarization" visit had been avoided.

MILITARY COURT ORDERED TO TRANSFER HUMAN RIGHTS CASES

PY162147 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Jan 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- La Plata -- The Federal Appeals Court in this city yesterday demanded from the Armed Forces Supreme Council the transfer of all cases of human rights violations pending resolution within its jurisdiction.

Former de facto President Reynaldo Bignone and General Santiago Riveros together with some 30 military officers would be implicated in the 60 cases included in the request.

The appeals court decision comes only 24 hours after it had waived its usual summer recess in order to avoid the February 22 deadline for the presentation of charges involving military officers stipulated in the Full Stop Law.

Bignone is held responsible for the "disappearance" of Communist Youth leaders Daniel Garcia and Jorge Steimberg while he was head of the Military Academy.

Close to 21 charges are related to operations carried out in clandestine detention centres by the Buenos Aires provincial police force under recently convicted retired General Ramon Camps.

Human rights organizations meeting in Tucuman meanwhile called on the judicial branch to prevent some 280 military officers and civilians accused of human rights abuses from leaving the country.

The petition includes retired Generals Luciano Zimmerman and Antonio Arrechea.

Lawyers Laura Figueroa and Liliana Vitar invited judge Samuel de la Vega Madueno to voluntarily excuse himself from human rights cases in connection with the operation of clandestine detention centres in Tucuman.

ARMED FORCES TO SUBMIT REPORT ON SHINING PATH

PY210230 Paris AFP in Spanish 1355 GMT 20 Jan 87

[By Eduardo Paz]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 20 Jan (AFP) -- Experts warned here today that the Peruvian Shining Path guerrillas have begun to concern Bolivian civilian and military authorities since it was learned that there is a Shining Path strategic plan calling for the expansion of terrorist actions into the Bolivian and Ecuadoran Andean region.

General Hermes Fellman permanent secretary of the Bolivian National Security Council (Conase), has met with President Victor Paz Estenssoro to inform him about a military report on the infiltration of the Shining Path into Bolivia. Gen Fellman said the Armed Forces are carrying out a detailed study of the situation, and that in the next few days they will submit a report to the president and to the captain general of the Armed Forces.

Moreover, Defense Minister Luis Fernando Valle has said the Bolivian people should be calm because the Armed Forces have organized special commando groups to carry out antiguerrilla warfare anywhere in the country. He added that in the Apolo and San Buenaventura areas, 250 km north of the capital and on the border with Peru, places have been detected from which Shining Path can receive logistical support. [passage omitted]

Military concern over Shining Path activities increased when the Peruvian terrorist group began to operate in the Peruvian region of Puno (August 1986), south of Lake Titicaca, where there are important setlements of Indian peasants.

According to reports from Peru, the Shining Path has established connections up to the Bolpebra landmark (the point where the territories of Bolivia, Peru and Brazil converge) located in a uninhabited jungle area in northern Bolivia.

The defense minister admitted the possibility that Shining Path Leader Abimael Guzman, alias Comrade Gonzalo, may have received medical attention in Bolivia a few months ago, although there is no evidence to prove this.

He added that military and Navy units carry out normal intelligence and investigation activity in the Lake Titicaca region, and that these reports are sumitted to tne general command for evaluation. [passage omitted]

BRIEFS

1986 ECONOMIC FIGURES REPORTED -- La Paz, 6 Jan (EFE) -- Javier Nogales, president of the Bolivian Central Bank, said today that in 1986 Bolivia received $306 million in loans, but paid $234 million as interest on part of its foreign debt. Nogales said the country could not make any payments to private banks, since renegotiations with them are continuing. Bolivia owes private banks nearly $1.2 billion, $700 million of which has been overdue since 1983. The contracted debt totals $5.023 billion, with an unused balance of $3.386 billion on 31 March 1986. The total value of exports in 1986 was $792 million, while imports totaled $900 million. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0027 GMT 7 Jan 87 PY]

FUNARO ON FOREIGN DEBT, INFLATION RATE, PARIS CLUB

PY171855 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 17 Jan 87

[By Elisabel Ferriche]

[Text] Brazilian economists will convey a message from Finance Minister Dilson Funaro to the Paris Club, which will hold a meeting in the French capital on 19 January. According to Funaro, Brazil has good arguments to use in the renegotiation of its foreign debt, the most important of which is its economic growth rate which in the last 2 years has been very high.

[Begin recording] [Funaro] We will propose to pay what we are in a position to pay. I hope the creditors appreciate Brazil's effort to pay what is within its means.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Funaro] If we were to pay all that will be due in 1987, the amount would be nearly $3.4 billion.

[Reporter] To be paid to the Paris Club alone?

[Funaro] Yes, to the Paris Club alone. The Brazilian proposal, however, is to pay a little over $1 billion. [end recording]

Funaro is pessimistic about the inflation rate for the month of January, because he believes that it will be higher than in December and will reach almost 7.5 percent. In his opinion, this increase is a result of the readjustments in the price of milk and of transportation.

Paris Club Talks Begin

AU191620 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Paris, Jan 19 (AFP) -- Brazil, which has the Third World's largest foreign debt of 108 billion dollars, started talks here Monday with the Paris Club of creditor nations in an effort to restructure 4.5 billion dollars of the debt, informed sources said.

The creditors were meeting to reorganize debts which were due between 1985 and the first quarter of 1987.

Brazil has not paid any of its state debts for the past two years, sources close to the informal Paris Club group said.

The talks aim to find some agreement under which unpaid debts can be paid to creditors -- which include all the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries except Turkey and Greece.

The President of the Brazilian central bank, Fernao Bracher, said his country had asked for new credits in 1987, which would total more than the sum of repayments it is to make this year.

He said Brazil's debt to the Paris Club was about eight billion dollars.

MINISTER SEEKS CONTROL OF U.S. CARGO FLIGHTS

PY210034 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Brazil needs to control the arrival of foreign cargo flights in order to prevent national firms from being strangled. Aeronautics Minister Otavio Moreira Lima said this while explaining that the international freight system must respect the principle of reciprocity.

According to Brigadiere Waldir Fonseca, chief of the Civil Aviation Department [Departamento de Aviacao Civil -- DAC], the U.S. Aviation Department [as heard] first submitted a request to the DAC through Itamaraty to permit chartered cargo flights to Brazil.

Fonseca said the Brazilian Government then agreed to authorize these chartered flights provided that they would be reciprocated.

However, on 17 January the U.S. Aviation Department canceled 22 chartered flights to the United States by Transbrasil and VASP [Sao Paulo Airline] in retaliation for the Brazilian request for the reciprical agreement.

GOVERNMENT 'CALHA NORTE' BORDER PLAN OUTLINED

PY191952 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1437 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 16 Jan (EFE) -- The Brazilian Government and Armed Forces are preparing to implement a recovery program for Brazil's northern border to combat drug trafficking and the guerrillas who are threatening to take over the region.

The military offensive is part of the "Calha Norte" project that also envisages the socioeconomic development of the border area. The government will make an initial investment of nearly $60 million for this plan.

The government intends to implement a regional integration and cleaning-up program to be coordinated by the Armed Forces. The program forsees the installation of strategic posts by the Army, Navy, and Air force, "essential participants in a policy to protect the Indian."

The aims of the integration program are to "protect the Indian against the advances of third parties and to use agrarian colonies as a model for the cultural and economic survival of the native communities."

The "third parties" are the armed rebels and the drug traffickers who have extended their actions and crossed the border. It also refers to the owners of Brazilian gold mines who impose their power on the colonies of natives who work the mines.

The National Security Council believes that ecomomic help and military occupation will be an effective measure against the mobilization of guerrillas operating on the northern border. The program is aimed against the Colombian M-19 guerrillas.

According to military sources, the government will station five new platoons along the Colombian border to form a military barrier to prevent the escalation of guerrilla activity.

Brazilian officials have said that they have full knowledge of the M-19 movements, and recalled their latest raid against the Venezuelan town of Santa Lucia, where they overpowered police and looted the marketplace.

Miners in these jungle regions assert that at least 3,000 M-19 guerrillas control the Maimate gold mines in Colombia, where many Brazilians work.

They also say that at least 300 Brazilians are members of that guerrilla group and now deliver weapons to the M-19.

In turn, Colombian durg traffickers, pursued by their government, have sought haven in the Amazon jungle where they build laboratories for cocaine processing.

The "Calha Norte" project has been discussed at various levels of society, particularly by the church; the native communities; and the the miners exploiting the gold, uranium, and bauxite mines in Amazonas and Para states and Roraima Territory.

The bishops of these northern regions had a 3-day meeting in Manaus and said that the project will lead to "the destruction of the native culture and will be a waste of financial, material, and the human resources."

They said that the funds earmarked for the military posts could be channeled into infrastructure and support projects for the 50,000 Indians living in the region. The concern of the government, however, is to preserve "national sovereignty" by means of socioeconomic development and military presence.

PLF LEADER WARNS PMDB OF COALITION STRAIN

PY171709 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0221 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Jose Lourenco, leader of the Liberal Front Party (PLF) in Congress, has decided, in view of continuous attacks made by the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party (PMDB) ministers against PLF members, to take the matter to the PLF executive meeting on 19 January. He will propose to condition the support of the PLF congresssional bloc for the government on better treatment by the PMDB ministers. Jose Lourenco said that the elections indicated his party's place in the opposition, but added that the PLF wants to avoid breaking up the coalition with the PMDB and the serious political crisis that would ensue.

BRIEFS

COCAINE CONFISCATED -- The Federal Police today confiscated the largest shipment of pure cocaine that has ever been smuggled in the northeastern region of the country. The police in Fortaleza today confiscated a total of 850 grams of pure cocaine worth 350 million Cruzados. The cocaine was smuggled in from Colombia through Para and Amazonas States. The police confiscated the drugs from Ceara businessman Raymundo Nonato Saraiva Cavalcanti, who is under arrest as are two other people who have been charged with drug smuggling. [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Jan 87 PY]

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWTH -- According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Brazilian industrial production grew by 9 percent in November 1986 compared with the same period in 1985. This is a 1.5-percent decrease from Octover 1986. [Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 16 Jan 87 PY]

POLITICIANS REACT TO ELLIOTT ABRAMS' COMMENTS

PY192038 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Comments made by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams have elicited criticism of foreign interference in Chilean affairs from various circles of the country. As is known, the U.S. spokesman voiced a favorable reaction to the measures taken by President Pinochet ending exile, the state of siege, the curfew, and other measures considered to be institutional restrictions.

Despite the approval of the U.S. Government of what it considers progress toward democratization, representatives of the Chilean news media agree that no government should try to influence, for better or worse, decisions Chile should make. These decisions belong to the Chileans alone.

Jaime Tormo, president of the Radical Democrats, pointed out that, while the measures ending exile and the state of siege are worth applauding, the events that generated them should not be forgotten. Tormo recalled that in 1973, most of the citizens asked for a military government, and therefore, exile should be analyzed in its true light. Regarding the state of siege, Tormo stressed that it should not be forgotten that this measure was adopted with justification after the illegal entry of arms for the terrorists and the attempt on the life of the president of our country.

Patricio Vildoso, leader of the National Vanguard, in turn, urged that a distinction be made between a transition process and a transformation process. Transformations, he said, mean important changes, and this was necessary to change Chilean institutions. The only way to accomplish this was to change the law of political parties so that the citizens could express their opinions in a reasonable way. He also said that the transformation of the electoral registers was equally necessary, because the old system was corrupted. Vildoso emphasized that Pinochet is the true leader of civic process, which will constitutionally lead us toward full, renewed, and participatory democracy.

Maximiano Errazuriz, member of the UNI [expansion unknown] political commission, remarked that the measures taken by the government regarding exile, state of siege, etc, should be looked upon as the passing of stages bound to lead the country toward full democractic institutionality.

In conclusion, Andres Allamand, president of the National Unity, stressed that the recent comments of the U.S. spokesman reflect a more balanced appreciation of the Chilean situation than earlier ones. He added: it is positive that there is recognition of the progress toward democratic normalization, which includes an end to exile; and it is absurd to try and reach agreements with the Communist Party in order to restore democracy. Allamand said it is particularly important that the U.S. Government is stressing that the subversive arsenals were aimed, not so much against the current government as against the democratic government that will succeed it. He emphasized that this message should not go unheeded by members of the opposition who are inclined make the road easy for the communists.

In any case, Allamand said, there is still the negative aspect of the veiled threat to use economic pressure to influence the course of Chilean politics. At this time, he said, the U.S. State Department should know that such threats are useless.

FURTHER REACTION TO POLITICAL PARTIES LAW

PY160127 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Jan 87

[Excerpts] The approval of the political parties law by the Government Junta has provoked reactions from different groups. Christian Social Movement [Movimiento Social Cristiano] leader William Thayer said that this is a historical date. He said he expected the constitutional court to study and approve the law as soon as possible. He added that citizens will now have to carefully consider their responsibilities and try to adjust their will to the new law.

Meanwhile, Unionist Democracy Party [Democracia Sindical -- as heard] leader Jaime Tormo said that the new law represents a step toward full democracy, and that this really demonstrates that this government is working toward full democracy. Tormo added that he hopes that has made believers of those who doubt us. We are proud of having cooperated in drawing up the electoral law, he said. [passage omitted]

National Party Vice President German Riesco believes that the political parties law represents meaningful progress toward the reestablishment of full democracy.

[Begin Riesco recording] I can only give you my first impression, which is positive, because this represents progress in the legal formation of political parties which have actually been operating for the last few years. This is a positive step toward the reestablishment of democracy in our country. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Independent Democratic Union leader Andres Chadwick agreed with German Riesco that the political parties law is of fundamental importance to the progress toward democracy in the country. He also said that the approval of this law is one of the most important actions carried out by this government.

[Begin Chadwick recording] Without yet knowing the text of the political parties law, I believe that we must take into consideration its political meaning. This represents a fundamental and important step toward full democracy. We believe that with the approval of this law today, the government has taken an important initiative. We consider this to be one of the most important initiatives it has ever taken. It is as important as the president's year end announcement about exiles. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Meanwhile, National Labor Front [Frente Nacional del Trubajo] leader Angel (Santucci) expressed his satisfaction with the approval of the new law. He said he agreed with other political sectors that this represents real progress toward the reestablishment of democracy.

[Begin Santucci recording] It is very important for us. We have been insisting on the need to have some sort of regulation so we can know which political parties can really continue. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

BARCO ANNOUNCES CREATION OF NEW POLICE CORPS

PA180435 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0111 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Bogota, 17 Jan (EFE) -- Tonight, Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas announced the creation of "Urban Civic Police" during a speech on the scope of the administrative reforms of the state that his government is conducting, broadcast to the country on a radio and television network.

Barco stated that one of the measures encompassed in his reform plan is to create a municipal police corps, responsible for the security of citizens, traffic control, and enforcement of prices and local regulations.

The measure involves the formation of an armed corps that will work as a branch of the national police, an institution that up to now controlled public order and security in the cities and rural areas under the Defense Ministry command.

The president said that the "Civic Guards" will be trained as "professionals in the service of the community" at the level of the municipalities and with the technical assistance from the national police.

Barco added that the agents will be recruited from youths with a high school education "who are now unemployed," because "there will be many citizens who will be willing to pursue this new career of service."

The president also explained other points of the administrative reform that seeks to decentralize and rationalize the services and authority now performed by the state by transferring them to regional and local institutions.

The measures are part of the transformations promised by the president, who was sworn in in August, in preparation for the first direct local elections that will be held in 1988.

Police Commanders Fired

PA181826 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1741 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Bogota, 18 Jan (DPA) -- It was officially announced today that the police commanders of the northwestern Department of Antioquia and the city of Medellin (capital of Antioquia) have been relieved of their posts because of their negligence in the antidrug-trafficking struggle launched by the national government.

The police commanders of Antioquia and Medellin, Colonels William Bermudez Zapata and Flavio Acosta Torres, respectively, had been unable to arrest any drug-trafficking boss and had carried out no raids despite the fact that that region is considered the epicenter of drug-trafficking activities in the country and Latin America.

It is the site of the operations headquarters of the so-called "Medellin Ring," believed to be the world's largest group of drug traffickers, directed by well-known mafia bosses such as Pablo Escobar Gaviria, a former congressman; Jorge Ochoa Vasquez; and Carlos Ledher Rivas; among others.

It has also been established that most of the assassins used by the drug-traffickers are from Medellin, Colombia's second largest city, with a population 1.8 million people.

It has been established that the government and the police general directorate had considered the situation strange because the scarce activities of the Antioquia policemen contrasted with important findings made in other regions, including the central Departments of Boyaca and Cundinamarca, the southwestern Department of Valle del Cauca, and the northeastern Department of Santander. Recently Col Acosta Torres said to a television station that he did not know whether Medellin is the epicenter of drug-trafficking. This produced astonishment and criticism among various sectors.

Colonel Gregorio Sepulveda Sepulveda has been appointed new police commander of Antioquia Department. He held the same post in the southwestern Department of Huila. Colonel Manuel Castano Rozo, the current commander of Cauca Department, has been appointed police commander of Medellin. Nothing has been said about whether or not there will be an investigation to take disciplinary measures against the relieved commanders.

New Head of Antinarcotics Office

PA202055 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Bogota -- In the biggest effort of recent times to give priority to the struggle against drug trafficking and to repress cocaine mafias in Colombia, the National Police have modified their traditional system to control that crime, appointing a general as head of that campaign.

General Antonio Gomez Padilla, formerly director of the Santander General School, will take over today as chief of the Police Antinarcotics Office. He replaces Colonel Augusto Garcia Plata, who will serve as national coordinator of that institution. Colonel Teodoro Campos, former national coordinator, was appointed to a post at the Carabineros School.

SOVIET CHARGE DISCUSSES DRUG FIGHT, TRADE

PA181959 Paris AFP in Spanish 0525 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Bogota, 16 Jan (AFP) -- Nikolay M. Yelizarov, Soviet charge d'affaires in Colombia, today discussed here the nuclear arms ban, the foreign debt, the Contadora effort, and bilateral cooperation.

Regarding the Colombian efforts to fight drug-trafficking, the diplomat said that his country backs those efforts and that any request for assistance in fighting that scourge would have a favorable response. He recalled that the Soviet Union has spoken clearly at the United Nations in favor of an international effort against that type of crime.

Analyzing the Colombian-Soviet trade situation, Yelizarov said that everything indicates that trade will increase. Some products the Soviet Union buys from Colombia are: coffee, sugar, and fruits. It is also studying the possibility of increasing its imports of Colombian textiles and other nontraditional products.

FEBRES CORDERO KIDNAPPING, REPERCUSSIONS

Febres: 'Planned Abroad'

PA201938 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1830 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Quito, 20 Jan (EFE) -- Commenting on last Friday's military rebellion at the Taura Air base, when he was abducted by members of the Ecuadoran Air Force, President Leon Febres Cordero said today that "this will not remain as it is."

Referring to the document he signed before being released by his captors, Febres Cordero said, "without breaking any commitment, I can assure you that this will not remain as it is." In that document he promised not to take any reprisals or to begin a political trial against the rebels.

President Febres made this statement to a few international journalists who were invited to the Government House today to interview him.

Regarding the 80 soldiers who participated in last Friday's rebellion, Febres said that "that force will be dissolved," upon the decision of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces High Command. Febres was referring to the special aviation forces, which he said "are no longer necessary" as the Army already has them.

In another part of his statement, Febres Cordero asserted that he has evidence that the rebellion in Taura "was planned from abroad," with the participation of the extreme-left political parties.

Vargas' Amnesty Questioned

PA200420 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] The pressroom of the Presidency of the Republic has issued a communique vigorously condemning the violent actions at the Taura military base. The communique also questions the procedure whereby President Leon Febres Cordero signed an amnesty for General Frank Vargas Pazzos. Summing up what Vargas Pazzos' rebellion in March has meant for the country -- and the latest incident, which has proved favorable to him -- the loss of 10 lives must be regretted. In all, 18 people were wounded. The communique adds that losses are even greater if we consider the unfavorable effect on the economy because the country was practically paralyzed in March.

The document also mentions the loss of prestige abroad because the destabilization of the country's democratic system was revealed.

Court on Vargas' Legal Status

PA201922 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Colonel Gonzalo Fernandez, president of the Military Court of Justice, declared that the penal action against General Frank Vargas Pazzos concerning the events of March 1986 has been terminated. Fernandez said that the amnesty terminates the military penal action, but that the preventive arrest order regarding the Fokker aircraft case is still in force.

[Begin Fernandez recording] The president of the court [words indistinct] in January 1986. The primarily judicial and legal reasons that served as a basis for the 30 September and 13 October 1986 decisions on the nonapplicability of the national congress amnesty resolution for [words indistinct] have become null and void as a result of the publication of the resolution in official register 615 of 16 January 1987. This completely fulfills the provision included in Article 136 of the administrative regime law, Decree 663 of 11 April 1983 and 362 of 21 December 1984, as well as Article 5 of the civil code. The publication and promulgation of these articles and decrees makes this legislative act fully valid. Its application is mandatory. In view of this, the court declares the Vargas Pazzos penal action terminated. Consequently, the arrest warrant against said officer is hereby revoked. The documents of the trial are hereby ordered filed away. It is to be noted that the publication cited acknowledges the jurdicial basis [words indistinct] of the decisions issued on 30 September and 13 October 1986 heretofore mentioned. Let it be published. [end recording]

However, Fernandez said today that an arrest warrant against Vargas Pazzos that is outside the government-acknowledged amnesty is still in affect. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Coup Rumors

PA202130 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Luis Robles Plaza stated yesterday that the executive branch will not favor a coup d'etat, and termed as improper the call to hold special sessions to analyze the behavior of President Leon Febres Cordero.

Robles Plaza emphasized that there is no division in the Armed Forces and said that the tragic incidents last Friday at Taura base were carried out by a small number of FAE [Ecuadoran Air Force] members.

The minister said that it is ironic that an attempt should be made to judge or analyze the conduct of the victim in circumstances as described by the country and the entire world. [sentence as heard] It is absolutely improper to call a special congressional session at this time of distress. Robles Plaza noted that the government's policy is to respect the Constitution and to resolve problems according to the established laws in the Constitution.

Robles Plaza stressed that there is a constitutional regime in Ecuador and that the various problems must be resolved within its regulations. Responding to a question from newsmen, he emphasized that the country is not and has never been on the brink of a constitutional vacuum. He rejected the claims that a coup d'etat is about to take place. The government minister denied this statement and said that he does not see what is to be judged at the coming congressional special session called for later this week.

Questions Congressional Session

PA180138 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0018 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Quito, 17 Jan (EFE) -- Today the Ecuadoran Government harshly questioned the calling of an extraordinary session of Congress to analyze the attitude of President Leon Febres Cordero in connection with yesterday's military events.

In a public communique signed by Interior Minister Luis Robles Plaza, the extraordinary congressional session that is to start on Tuesday, 20 January, was described as a "forced formula that hides the intention of upsetting the Ecuadoran constitutional regime."

The minister said: "It is ironic, to say the least, that the conduct to be analyzed is that of a victim of a kidnapping by a few members of one of the branches of the Armed Forces in a new act of insubordination and sedition."

The communique adds that "it is regrettable that while national opinion, practically without exception, and heads of state of countries that maintain relations with Ecuador have condemned the execrable kidnapping of the president, that the Ecuadoran Congress intends to analyze the conduct of one who as president has been the victim of a violent act unprecedent in the history of Ecuador."

According to minister Robles, it is "obvious what the political opposition is trying to do to President Leon Febres Cordero."

The communique adds that the only resolution the legislators can adopt "if they want to show good judgement" is to back the government and democracy.

The extraordinary congressional sessions are to start on Tuesday, according to the announcement made by its president, Social Democrat Andres Vallejo, to analyze the conduct of the president regarding yesterday's military upheaval and the country's political situation brought about by the freeing of former Ecuadoran Air Force Commander Frank Vargas Pazzos.

Vallejo did not rule out that the Congress, which is comprised mainly of members of the opposition, might agree to start a political trial against the president in the event he is found guilty of the situation that took place at the Taura military air base near Guayaquil.

Congress President Seeks Changes

PA171409 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Interview with Congress President Andres Vallejo Arcos by unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Vallejos Arcos] I believe it is time for radical changes in the country's administration. I believe that what has happened is so important it must serve as a lesson for the people involved. In essence what we have seen today is a de facto amnesty produced because a de jure amnesty was not decreed. The liberation of General Vargas has come after the vetoing of the amnesty decreed by the National Congress, an amnesty that would have produced the effects that political amnesties seek: agreement and the pacification of the country.

It is regrettable that a de facto solution was found because a de jure resolution was not respected.

[Reporter] How does Ecuador's democracy look following these events?

[Vallejo Arcos] We have the obligation to strengthen it. We have the obligation to preserve it. We have been doing this and we will continue to do so.

I want to be very clear in stating that we must not confuse respect, strength, and natural concern for the constitutional system and its development with this particular situation.

I believe that the National Congress has characteristically acted in a responsible way. The need for changes is obvious.

[Reporter] Is it necessary to rectify errors?

[Vallejo Arcos] It is always necessary to rectify errors, especially now. The country cannot continue living [words indistinct]. The country cannot continue being led the way it has been led. It is necessary to have substantial changes in the administration of the country because otherwise the consequences would be similar to those we experienced today, which represent all sorts of grave risks.

[Reporter] How are things after this second crisis of democracy?

[Vallejo Arcos] I think the situation has to be analyzed very carefully and that everyone must cooperate to put an end to deterioration so that what we have been repeating comes true: There is a need for respect, for the conviction that the functions of the state must be independent and respected and that all institutions, including, of course, the National Armed Forces, must be strengthened.

Explains Reasons for Session

PA211352 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] At the beginning of the congressional sessions analyzing the national political situation and President Leon Febres Cordero's conduct, Congress President Andres Vallejo Arcos said that the significance of the political events in the country has forced the National Congress to act with great responsibility.

[Begin Vallejo recording] Because of the comments in recent days, I want to definitively state that the convening of these sessions is not for the reasons of a political trial. Instead, the Congress will analyze the national situation and the president's conduct. Messrs Deputies: Everyone is aware that the country has been experiencing extremely delicate moments due to numerous reasons that I feel the Congress should analyze.

The crisis that occurred on Friday is not the basic reason we have convened these sessions. That very grave event, which we all lament and condemn, is the result of a number of things that have been occurring in the country. The importance of the current situation forces the National Congress and all its members to act with great responsibility, and to undertake a significant and lofty debate that will exclusively address the national well-being.

Messrs Deputies: For some time, the country has been stating that radical changes need to be made in the way the country is led. The country cannot continue functioning in the same manner. The constant conflicts and the imminent threat of an institutional credibility crisis force us all to responsibly reflect on and analyze the situation. We must carry out the steps that, as a Congress, we believe are necessary to modify the situation and redirect the country down the essential path of peace, tranquility, harmony, and unity. [end recording]

Armed Forces Support Febres

PA201819 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1658 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Quito, 20 Jan (EFE) -- Today, the heads of the three branches of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces, Jorge Andrade of the Air Force, Jorge Azanza of the Army, and Fernando Alfaro of the Navy confirmed their support for the democratic traditions and for President Leon Febres Cordero.

The high military commanders met today for almost 2 hours with President Febres Cordero at the Government Palace.

According to radio reports, the purpose of this meeting -- which the military chiefs attended in their field uniforms -- was to confirm to the president the support of the three branches of the Armed Forces for the constitutional government of Ecuador.

The meeting of the high military leaders with the Ecuadoran president took place a few hours before the opening of the special congressional sessions in which a political review of Febres Cordero has been requested.

FADI CLAIMS DEPUTY KIDNAPPED BY 'UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS'

PA202109 Paris AFP in Spanish 2056 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Quito, 20 Jan (AFP) -- This afternoon, Esmeraldas Deputy Ivan Bruckner was kidnapped in Quito by unidentified persons, according to the Marxist Left Broad Front (FADI).

Bruckner announced his political affilitation to FADI only 2 hours before he was kidnapped. Bruckner had been an "independent" for a month after he left the ranks of the ruling Social Christian Party.

Deputy Denies Kidnapping

PA202318 Paris AFP in Spanish 2257 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Quito, 20 Jan (AFP) -- Efrain Alvarez, deputy for the Marxist Left Broad Front (FADI), this afternoon denied that Deputy Ivan Bruckner had been kidnapped, as had been announced in a press bulletin released through the Ecuadoran National Congress' Information Office.

Bruckner himself told AFP that the scheme was thought up by "people who are interested in frightening me." The press bulletin, with a FADI letterhead, was confirmed earlier by Efrain Alvarez' office. Alvarez is the head of FADI's representation in the National Congress. Bruckner blamed President Leon Febres Cordero's Social Christian Party for releasing a false communique in the National Congress' Press Room.

Bruckner recalled that a month ago he left the ranks of the ruling Social Christian Party, and that he had joined FADI's ranks today. FADI will support his struggle "for the people of Esmeraldas Province to get what they need. Bruckner is deputy for the Esmeraldas Province in northern Ecuador.

The government has not kept its campaign promises, and Bruckner based his decision to join FADI based on this. FADI makes up the opposition majority together with five other center leftist parties.

Bruckner added that he has received anonymous threats.

MINISTRY CRITICIZES U.S. COMMUNIQUE ON RADIO NANDUTI

PY210101 Asuncion Red Privada de Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jan 87

["Text" of note Foreign Ministry addressed to U.S. Embassy on 20 January]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry extends its attentive greetings to the U.S. Embassy with the intention of referring to the communique on Radio Nanduti the embassy released to the media on 16 January 1987.

The Foreign Ministry categorically rejects this communique. It puts unacceptable public pressure on the constitutional Government of Paraguay and demonstrates an evident lack of knowlege of and consideration for the high-ranking addressee of the undue pressure contained in the communique. Moreover, the communique was not even addressed to this ministry, as is appropriate in any type of normal relations between sovereign nations, no matter what interest is being pursued.

By acting thoughtlessly, that embassy has once again sidestepped the normal and legitimate channels through which any type of problem should be brought up by another government that wishes to express itself about measures of exclusive competence of the Paraguayan Government.

This is determined by the legal equality of nations, which is included in the fundamental rights and duties of the OAS Charter.

Any type of criticism, urging, or pressure that any foreign government attempts to carry out to influence the Paraguayan people by coming between them and their legitimate authorities is interference in Paraguay's internal affairs. According to Article 18 of the OAS Charter, no state or group of states is permitted to directly or indirectly interfere in the internal or external affairs of another state, regardless of the motive.

This type of procedure upsets the continent's spiritual unity, which is based on reciprocal respect for independence, sovereignty, and the cultural essence of each of the American countries, and thus it harms the good relations between our two countries, which the Paraguayan Government always tries to maintain.

The Foreign Ministry takes this occasion to renew and assure its highest esteem for the U.S. Embassy.

HOY PUBLISHER SUGGESTS GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

PY162316 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 16 Jan 87 p 1

[By Humberto Dominguez Didd]

[Text] Any citizen of a democratic country has the right to freely express his opinions. Therefore, as a citizen supported by the Constitution, I am suggesting the names of some people to be appointed to positions that are extremely important for the good administration of the country. Therefore, I suggest that Dr Julio Rejis Sanguina be appointed president of the Central Bank; that Dr Jacinto Obelar be made the new finance minister; and that a military officer become the interior minister. Mr President, if you read this, think it over. These are no times for softies.

COSTA RICA

NICARAGUAN CONTRA COMMANDER REPORTEDLY CAPTURED

PA182155 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1958 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] San Jose, 18 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- An anti-Sandinist commander known as "Navegante" and two other members of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity have been captured near the Nicaraguan border by the Costa Rican Civil Guard, Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar reported today. The men were captured on Friday at 1900 in El Jardin de Los Chiles, where the Costa Rican police have a surveillance post.

Following his capture, "Navegante" told ACAN-EFE that this was the first time he had entered Costa Rican territory, because he urgently needed medical supplies he cannot obtain in Nicaragua for his forces.

The 33-year-old anti-Sandinist leader was captured in Costa Rican territory together with "Genocida" and "Causelo," both 34, when they were returning to Nueva Guinea, a territory their forces control. They were carrying medical supplies, personal communications equipment, and 16 million cordobas (about $4,000 on the free market in Managua).

The guerrillas said they were uncovered because none of them had ever been in Costa Rican territory. The area where they are fighting in Nicaragua is a 10-day walk from the border.

Minister Garron Salazar said that "as long as I am security minister, I will not allow Sandinists or contras to use Costa Rican territory for their operations," in spite of the reasons the guerrillas had.

"We feel sorry for the Nicaraguans, but we cannot yield our country, nor can we sacrifice our neutrality for the sister nation's conflict to be settled here," Garron emphasized.

Before entering Costa Rica territory, "Navegante" led several actions in central Zelaya during December to repeal an offensive launched by the EPS infantry and aviation against his forces.

The issue of the captured anti-Sandinists will be resolved by the Attorney General's Office.

ARIAS APPOINTS NEW AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA

PA182150 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Jan 87 p 4

[Excerpts] According to an announcement made yesterday by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Farid Ayales has been appointed the new Costa Rican ambassador to Nicaragua. Ayales, who is considered in Costa Rica to be part of the group of the "progressive" intellectuals, is the dean of the School of International Relations of the National University of Costa Rica (UNA).

Arias said yesterday that in Ayales "we have found someone who is part of the new generation of Costa Rican intellectuals and who possesses ample academic preparation." [passage omitted]

No details regarding his day of departure for Managua have been given yet because the approval of his appointment will be submitted to the Nicarguan Government next Monday.

The Costa Rica Foreign Ministry has said repeatedly that when it comes to ambassadorial appointments, the name of the new ambassador cannot be released until the approval is received, but that in this case, President Arias released the name of Dr Ayales. [passage omitted]

ARIAS DISCUSSES CONTADORA, FOREIGN POLICY

PA182005 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Jan 87 p 3

[Text] "Nicaragua should democratize itself," Costa Rican President Dr Oscar Arias said yesterday.

Arias tacitly indicated that there is no democracy in Nicaragua even though a new Constitution was promulgated there yesterday.

The Costa Rican president reiterated that "without peace there is no total democratization in Central America."

He stressed that "a timetable must be drawn up for democratization in countries that are not democracies."

Arias has been speaking about this timetable since the meeting of five area presidents in Esquipulas in May 1986.

In previous months, Arias has referred to Nicaragua in very concrete terms concerning the fact that there is no democracy there, especially when he said that "the dictatorships must fall."

President Arias spoke at the presidential house yesterday, and the topic was again Central America and peace.

He stated the obvious: "a more belligerent Costa Rican position in the diplomatic field." [Costa Rican Foreign Minister] Madrigal Nieto went to meet with Habib and Abrams in Miami, and this week he will attend the meeting in San Salvador; Arias will go to Mexico in February and last year he went to the United Nations and Washington.

"We have to be more belligerent," Arias indicated; in other words, more aggressive.

He made a statement that shows the urgency of the Central American situation by indicating that "there is no time to lose."

(In private Arias has admitted that Nicaragua needs to be pressured more so that there will be democratization with free and honest elections, respect for human rights, freedom of speech, and freedom of action for the political parties.)

Yesterday, Arias recalled the date of 6 June 1986 which had been set for the signing of the Contadora Group's peace act in Panama City.

Arias had even viewed that date as "sacred because the Contadora act would be signed then. Woe unto the rulers who try to mock the Contadora Group! Those who do so betray the commitment to strengthen democracy in Latin America."

Yesterday, Arias said: "The great opportunity for the signing of the peace document for the region was lost on 6 June."

(It will be remembered that the act was not signed because of the boycott by Nicaragua, which did not want to agree to the control, verification, and arms limitation.)

"Nevertheless, we must renew the efforts," Arias said. "Today more than ever with the problems of 1987, peace is necessary because other things cannot progress in the region without peace."

Yesterday Arias briefly mentioned some of the problems at the start of 1987 even though "we have begun this year with great determination."

Among the problems, yesterday Arias mentioned those of exports, due to U.S. protectionism; foreign trade; and the deterioration of the CACM.

He also superficially addressed the issue of the so-called "courtesies" (authorization for consumers to purchase $25 worth of goods on the border with Panama), stating that "we have an excellent trade relation with Panama: we have a surplus with that country. We should not harm Panama with severe measures."

Among the country's problems, he also discussed that of the foreign debt (which some people close to the National Liberation Party call the "external debt"), stating that "we need the aid of more friendly countries, not only of the United States or Taiwan but of others. This is one of the reasons I will go to Europe before June."

"There are many problems, many things to resolve," he said, frowning.

He added, concluding his informal talk with reporters: "However, we have nothing without peace. Peace is the foundation for everything."

He added that "the Nicaraguan problem must be resolved. That is why I reiterate that the mission of the 10 (the Contadora and Support Groups and the OAS and UN secretaries general) is a mission that must be given much attention. It is one more effort to find solutions."

The missions of the 10 will meet with Arias on 19 January from 0900 to 1200.

EL SALVADOR

REBELS CLAIM 'DISINFORMATION' MOVES IN AVALOS CASE

PA182244 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Concerning the case of Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos, FMLN prisoner, we wish to point out that General Blandon [chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] has been carrying out a disinformation campaign on the situation, referring to alleged new lists of political prisoners presented by the FMLN. We want to clarify that the FMLN has officially presented only one list, which was deliverd late in 1986 to the government through the mediator. This is part of the FMLN proposal, which has not been changed at all. The negotiations have reached a deadlock because the government, particularly Gen Blandon, replied with a list that is missing some political prisoners whose whereabouts the government cannot explain.

On the other hand, the Armed Forces continue with the inhumane policy of threatening and capturing the FMLN crippled fighters who are being provided medical attention under the responsibility of the Red Cross International Committee. The Armed Forces want to link its inhumane and criminal behavior toward the FMLN crippled fighters to the Col Avalos case. We reiterated that we feel the situation of the crippled fighers, who are unable to fight and are even handicapped, is not negotiable under any circumstances. The Duarte government, and particularly Blandon, are responsible for the negotiations on the Avalos case being deadlocked.

COLONEL VARGAS TERMS STRIKE 'DESTABILIZING'

PA191516 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas has described the congressional strike as a destabilizing factor and urged the opposition to be careful with its actions so it will not play into the hands of the guerrillas. He also harshly criticized the Contadora Group. Joel Burgos gives us details about this report.

[Begin recording] [Burgos] The chief of Military Detachment No 4, Col Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, analyzed the situation in the country and said the national crisis is divided into four aspects: the military, the political, the social, and the economic.

As for the military aspect, Vargas said the situation between the Armed Forces and the guerrillas is even. However, in the political aspect he describes some actions -- including the congressional strike that began last week by the deputies who are opposed to the economic policy adopted by the Christian Democratic Government -- as destabilizing factors. He also pointed out that in the social aspect, the crisis has worsened due to the discontent of the people.

[Vargas] In the political field, we already have what they call strikes, or I do not know what they call them in the assembly, but that is total destabilization. In the social field, we do have the reaction that has arisen from the well-known economic packages. Some say they are good, others say they are bad.

Some present different stands, but we do not manage to reach an agreement on the economic problem. There is no true and objective reactivation of the economic scene. This problem is a catalytic element in a rebellious movement. This is not the time to continue pursuing the war. Now is the time to make the war produce, so that the people who are economically active will join, and the basic needs of the various groups of the population will be met. [sentence as heard] In that manner, we will be isolating the causes that generate the war.

[Burgos] As for the work done by the Contadora Group, Vargas pointed out that so far the group has not been able to achieve anything, and will never be able to solve the regional conflict, because it is only a political instrument whose members have no moral qualifications for the type of work they are doing.

[Vargas] Contadora is a political instrument. It has achieved absolutely nothing. I believe in facts. I think that Contadora -- or the countries that form part of the group -- do not have the moral qualifications. They talk about self-determination, but were they not the ones who ousted Anastasio Somoza? They talk about nonintervention in the internal affairs of a state, but weren't Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia the ones who sent weapons for the ousting of Somoza? Ah, because it was a dictatorship? Gentlemen, there is another dictatorship now. We are talking about philosophical concepts, very abstract. I personally think that as a political instrument, Contadora is good. However, will that be the solution [word indistinct]

[Burgos] The military chief also said that most of the municipalities in Morazan are under the Army's control, adding that 46 guerrillas and 6 soldiers have been killed in the last 15 days. He said that 11 soldiers were wounded during various clashes. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

SPANISH OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN MANAGUA FOR MEETINGS

PA202141 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Maximo Cajal y Lopez, general secretary of Spanish foreign policy [title as heard], arrived in Managua last night from Costa Rica to meet with revolutionary government officials.

The Spanish foreign policy official arrived with Spanish Ambassador to Nicaragua Yago Pico De Coana y de Valicourt, who attended a meeting in San Jose for Spanish ambassadors in Central America.

The Spanish diplomat has several appointments today, starting with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman and ending with Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado.

CASTRO ADDRESSES THIRD FEU STUDENT CONGRESS

FL171200 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0132 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Speech by President Fidel Castro closing Third Congress of the Federation of University Students (FEU) at the FAR Universal Hall on 10 January -- recorded]

[Text] [Indistinct chanting] Family members of the student and revolutionary martyrs and heroes, comrades:

We have reached the end, the conclusion, or the hour of the conclusion of the FEU Congress.

I was thinking about the long hours during which we exchanged opinions, analyzed, and participated in this congress. I think that perhaps, at certain times my words, my criticisms, may have seemed at bit harsh. Nevertheless, I hope that you will understand that the idea of being unjust is far from my mind, much less the intention of hurting anyone. I think that if I express myself like this to you it is, among other reasons, because of the high regard I have for university students. I have a very high opinion of the role played by university students throughout our history and their decisive role in the revolutionary process, their exemplary role since 10 March [not further explained], their conduct, and their exemplary support of the revolution at all times during the struggle, after the struggle, and throughout all these years.

We should say that the revolution never again had a problem with university students, not even when there were initially thousands of students, not when classes were reopened, even though our students were not generally from the working class. Our students were fundamentally of the petit-bourgeois class because there were few children of the working class who had the opportunity to become linked [Vincularse] to higher education.

If I spoke about or discussed being able or not being able to meet the stipend the students receive or 15 or 20 pesos during the third year and 30 pesos in the third [as heard] year in addition to accomodations, education, enrollment, the books for those students who previously did not have the opportunity to purchase them and if now we can speak about all the securities and all the opportunities available to any youth in our country to study at the university and during that time, when 1 peso was worth more than it is now...[does not finish sentence]. Certain things could be purchased at a price lower than their present price. One hundred pesos, not even 100 pesos monthly, was enough to sustain a student who traveled from his town to the only university that existed at that time.

Later, another university was founded in Santiago. There were two. Actually, there were two university centers before the triumph of the revolution. It was truly very difficult for children from the more modest town families to study.

Nevertheless, those students, supported the revolution en masse. The students were always on the side of the revolution. Even in the most difficult struggles, the class struggles, which were more difficult, they did not hesitate. They gave great proof of their purity as students who did...[changes thought] many of them would overcome their own origins of social class.

Over the years, the students were transformed. They no longer were part of a segment of society, of a class in society. They became part of another class in society, part of the working class and part of the peasant class.

The social composition of students kept improving yearly and in this way, year by year, they maintained the total and decisive support of the students of the revolution as was logical. The students have been present in all the fundamental battles of the revolution and they are also present in the vanguard, in the battles we are carrying out now.

In no way do I ignore all the students' success, all the achievements, and I also do not ignore that each year our organization, this student university organization is more efficient.

The main report all of you read reflects the successes achieved in numerous fields, some have been achieved in fundamental areas such as the country's defense. These things have been achieved by students in the last few years since the third...[corrects himself] the second congress was held.

However, we are far from being demagogic, from saying beautiful things to simply flatter students. We are at a time of acute and strong criticism. We are at a time of rectifying mistakes, of struggling against negative tendencies. We are at a time of a historic turning point of the revolution. This concept of historic turning point means that we were moving away from the right path, we were dangerously moving away and we have been able to rectify and be back on the right track. When I speak of historic turning point I do not simply refer to a change in direction. I am also referring to the idea of a historic leap. This is why we can say that in addition to being a turning point, it is a time when the revolution is taking a historic qualitative leap. I can say this because we had never felt so sure that we were doing the right thing as we are today. The years of inexperience have been left behind, a great deal of knowledge and experiences were accumulated during these years. We have taken one path and another and today we are taking a new path with all that accumulated experience. It would not be right in circumstances such as this one to be too satisfied, if we were happy just by talking about the successes achieved.

We have many great achievements. Who could compare this student movement, this force, this mass, these levels, this number of university students, this number of higher university centers...[corrects himself] higher education centers. Who could compare, how could we compare it with what we had at the time of the triumph of the revolution or during the first years of the revolution with what we have today?

We did not even have teachers. The vast majority of medical school professors left. The United States took them and left us without physicians and without professors to train physicians. What a challenge that was!

However, now we can speak of 17,000 higher education professors. In general they are young professors selected from the best students. For many years we have been leaving the best students in the universities, the aids, the monitors, the most outstanding so that they become professors. Of course, this is not the ideal formula. The ideal thing would have been that the best students become professors. It was not the best formula, it was not the ideal formula but it was the only one under those circumstances. The revolution has had to implement bold formulas but they have solved problems as the shortage of middle level teachers was solved.

They were not professors with a degree, graduates, but ninth grade students who joined the education detachment. The education detachment fulfilled the great historic mission of filling the teachers' vacuum that was created when the enormous mass of primary school children -- as a result of the universalization of primary education which was taken to all corners of the country -- got to the intermediate level. Schools were built -- it is true that at that time schools were built incredibly fast. In 1 year alone, over 100 intermediate level schools were built. Those brigades built schools in 4 months or in 5, 6, 7 months. Schools such as the Lenin School with room for 4,500 students were built in approximately 2 years. I explain this because some of our visitors could ask themselves how could we have solved the problem with the disaster we have now in the construction sector in which projects are never completed. There was a time when construction projects were completed and we will build like that again. We are convinced of that because the mistakes made and the inadequate ideas that have regulated planning, investments, and construction in the last few years will be rectified and are already being rectified.

But we had teachers even though they were students. We could not have university professors with many years of experience as professors because they were young. There were not many professors with experience in production because a mass also was arriving at higher education centers and professors were needed.

I liked Comrade Vecino's [minister of higher education] words when he -- with great dignity and in a categorical way -- praised teachers and, above all, hailed the moral attitude of higher education faculty members, and when he emphatically asserted that university professors do not cheat. Also the fact that there is no buddy system and there will never exist in the system that grants scholarships at the university. Undoubtedly, we have taken a great step or great steps during these years.

We have 300,000 university level students enrolled in higher education programs. Of course, we could even get frightened of having so many university students if it was not considered that a great number of those university or higher education level students are workers already fulfilling their social tasks, they are already working and serving the country. Many of them already have a job. Many study to improve their education. These are very important subjects which perhaps we will refer to later.

We have an enormous mass. Their education centers improve every year, their education levels improve every year. That is undisputable. We have made progress on this as in many other areas. It would not be right to congratulate ourselves with what we have done, of the good things we have done. What all of us need to do is to think about and analyze the things we are not doing in the best possible way, we have to examine them thoroughly and improve our work. If not, we would not be following that beautiful idea of Julio Antonio Mella when he said that the expression "all past experience is better" has to be replaced with the concept that all future time has to be better. Undoubtedly, all future time should be better.

We said in different words that we always have to be unsatisfied, and if we thought the work was good we have to attempt to make it better. If the day comes when the work appears to be perfect ...[rephrases] no work will ever be perfect enough for a communist. [applause]

Precisely, this is the essence of the revolutionary's quintessence if you will. This is why we thought this congress had to be critical, very critical. I hope -- I say it with all humility and all sincerity -- that no fellow delegate is hurt by this historic meeting.

I know that the agronomy students [laughter] were a bit sad because of some analysis I made on some ideas I expressed. I even quizzed a comrade. I could not contemplate the idea of showing off or bragging about certain knowledge, and all of those who know me well know that I do not normally do such things. But I was strongly defending the idea that the excessive use of profiles was a mistake, the excessive use of the rightfully so-called narrow profiles because I believe they respond to an excessively limited concept. I vehemently defended it. I wanted to defend the idea of having professionals with a sound scientific foundation. This could mean that in some way I may be underestimating or undervaluing the comrades of that university center or university branch or that I am placing on them some responsibility for that. On the contrary, we assume all the responsibility. If we have made a mistake, the victims are you, the victim is the country, the victim is the revolution. I am too much of an optimist to underestimate the capabilities of those comrades of becoming excellent professionals.

Because if they are revolutionaries, they are persistent and if they study -- that is the essential requirement for becoming a first-rate specialist -- if they study constantly, persistently, and permanently any of them -- even though they have been submitted to the narrow profile mistake because it is too limited -- they can become excellent specialists in that subject. I truly believe this, you need to study and always study. Because in the long run, when we leave, [corrects himself] when you leave the universities or the higher education centers, you will have to study as much as you do now. You will have to study even harder than you do now. You will study with more responsibility, with more maturity, with a better sense of the value of study than now. You need to continue studying for the rest of your lives. As you honored me by giving me the gold diploma, I was thinking and was trying to compare myself with you. Yesterday a comrade was talking about various comrades of our generation who in a way were self-taught. It has merit to be self-taught but how grateful we would have been if we had had many tutors to help us study during those years. But as a student I compare myself with you and I honestly and with all fairness I say that you, any one of you who are present here, are much better students than what I used to be. I am sure of that. We are greatly pleased by that. It is great to know that you are much better students than us and that you have much better conditions to study than we had and that you have many more tutors than we had because we really did not have any. You have a very complete and thorough revolutionary theory. It is the most fair, the most revolutionary theory. Our youth did not have any goals, our youth was not offered any theory. During those years, our university youth did not have a theory, and above all did not have a revolutionary theory. It was rebellious as youth has always been. It admired the past, our country's heroic history, the comrades who fought and fell in the various stages. Beginning with the students who were executed in 1871, who were the first martyrs of independence and freedom of our students and were also martyrs of our people. I believe this certificate is an act of generosity of your part. In any case, I do not take it as an award to the good student in me but as an award to a student who knew how to be persistent, persistent with the ideas and goals, who knew how to be persistent with the assurance of the need to study, of being persistent in the desire to learn and of having been persistent and being faithful to the revolutionary ideals. [applause]

We are greatly satisfied that you have more facilities, more possibliites, more conditions to be good students, good specialists, and good revolutionaries.

Today I spoke about some comrades who are not placed, but it is really a privilege of our society that the vast majority, almost 100 percent of the university graduates are immediately placed in jobs and part of them are more than placed, they are re-placed. That is precisely the tragedy of students in the capitalist world. Their job placement is not guaranteed. They have to desparately struggle for life, everyone is on his own and the buddy system, social status, private property, and all other mechanisms operate to an extreme degree.

We are concerned and we do very well in being concerned.

We do very well in being concerned because there are more than 170 or approximately 200 who have not been placed. This is with a few imperfections and a few incorrect things and some occasional negative influences. Nevertheless, we do not consider the question of work of university graduates to be a problem and we should try to make sure that this mechanism works better each time.

There is one particular thing about this congress. I was not just speaking about student matters or studies. We have been speaking about strategic matters of the revolution and we have been speaking with total frankness and with harsh words, on some occassions very harsh, on our own work, on the work of the cadres leading the revolution. We have spoken harshly about errors committed, about failures, and we have spoken frankly. We have spoken with complete liberty.

For this reason, this congress, its content, transcends the material solely related to students. We have come here to examine student problems and the problems of the higher education centers from a political point of view, from a revolutionary point of view and it has been very useful.

No one can imagine that those who have certain responsibilities acquire an awareness, an idea of the problem, because there is a perfect mechanism that, through several conduits, supplies a cadre of leaders with precise, detailed, and exact information on the problems.

There are times when even a good article in the press makes us aware of a problem and we find the reason for the problem.

But at these meetings, at this assembly at these congresses one acquires a great deal of information and awareness of the problems. That awareness is acquired with much precision.

We have been analyzing different types of problems here. We have been seeing the negative consequences of the incompletions and delays in construction. We have seen this everywhere. We have become aware of incorrect methods of planning and investment, the excessive periods of time required to finish projects. That is a problem experienced by the teacher-training institutes, the medical sciences and other centers.

We have discussed the damage that this causes us, the inconveniences they cause us. We have discussed this, but not to cry, not to feel sorry for ourselves, simply to criticize and state the need and simply seek the method of solving those problems. We are confident that we will solve these problems.

Today, Comrade Fernandez [no further identification provided] was speaking with the Granma party secretary. We have one of the worst crises in their higher teacher-training center and the party comrades there are seeking a method to complete that task in the shortest possible time.

We have discussed here questions related to textbooks, difficulties. We have been able to appreciate the advances. For example, 4 or 5 years ago books for medical science students were very scarce. Many studied with notebooks because many times they did not have textbooks or lectures. We were very concerned about this. Many measures were taken then in relation to this very important career of medicine. Without a doubt, it is the scientific area, the professional area in which our country was most advanced, not in the areas of engineering, architecture, or agriculture. Medicine was truly the most advanced area. Our country was most advanced in that area. Nevertheless, we had many problems. Many of the students did not have books.

There was a very bad selection of students. There were many. Out of 2,000 students who would enroll, 1,000 would graduate. There was no selection. There was a self-selection. There was no preselection but, instead, there was a self-selection over the length of the career. Those who tested in anatomy, biochemistry, or one of those very difficult subjects, those who passed that initial period, were the ones who generally remained in school in the future years.

A plan of selection was developed. We moved away from the use of computers for this. The assembly process was utilized for evaluation to make sure that they were of the best possible quality.

That is one of the tasks the FEEM [Federation of Mid-Level School Students] have, the matters regarding school records, matters regarding vocation. Above all we included with all this the political-moral assessment the group made of the student. An important step was made in selection which can be improved. We had an old program which had not been seriously revised. Many criteria have not been seriously reviewed. There was the linear internship, the superspecialization tendency. There were many problems.

There were not enough textbooks. Anyone who took the biochemistry course never saw a biochemistry book again. I believe that the ideal thing would be for a student who studied biochemistry or anatomy to be able to underline, take notes, and keep his book for later reference. For the first time we suggested that problem be solved so that students could get books. In the area of medicine we had to discuss this at the National Assembly, the constitutional aspect of the matter because we were talking about free books. But since the free books were actually books on loan we decided that the Constitution was referring to that kind of book.

We wanted students to buy them not because of mercantilist reasons. The state does not make a profit with any of those books. We just have a small margin of profit that is used for distribution. Those books are 10 or 15 or 20 times cheaper than what they cost in capitalist systems. It was so that students appreciate books a little bit more because unfortunately, many times what is free for some reason is not appreciated as much. If a small sacrifice is made to obtain the books they are cared for better. That was the reason why books were sold. The state spends much more than that in teaching, in education. We saw today that many of the medical sciences students have their own books. There has been progress in that program during these 4 or 5 years. We have kept many types of molds, many printed books.

There have also been some distribution problems. I found that problem in Granma. They had not distributed books well. That is what also happened in technical science schools. But this medical students textbooks were made. They have adapted to a new program. A good method was followed for the new program. Groups were sent to the most advanced countries in medicine and to the best universities. It was not to copy from them but to see what they were doing and how they were dealing with various problems. With all that information the new program was created. Success always rewards perseverance. That started 5 years ago and now we have two classes using the new program. The medical sciences problems discussed here do not impugn the quality of the program. Everyone acknowledges the quality of that program. They refer to the transition mechanism of adapting the curriculum of the students of third to sixth year to the new program. If one remembers all that one can see the progress made.

All medical sciences specialities are being studied one by one. Programs are being developed or they are being created and some of the development programs of 35 clinical-surgical specialties are being already applied in part. They are paving the way to make us a medical power. There is no doubt about that.

I have cited matters regarding medicine not because I have or could have the right of siding with one field. I appreciate greatly the field of medicine, not because of medicine itself but because of the people. Because I appreciate a lot everything that is related to the people, the needs and concerns of the people. We not only have worked in support of all these programs and initiatives but we have worked hard in the last few years in the improvement of medical services and the introduction of new techniques and services. The comrades know, the fellow comrades who work with me know that I said before that if we wanted to have good medical and educational services we have to have a considerable scientific-technical development. I asked them to explore the situation of the technical sciences. We tried to apply in technical sciences the experiences that had been gathered in the field of medical sciences. This is how it was created. Some 2 and 1/2 years later after all these programs were started or these ideas were developed in the field of medicine, I requested that we pay special attention to the technical sciences and that we solve the problems that field could have. To give a boost to technical sciences the same way we had given it to medicine. I thought it was fundamental.

This resulted in the meeting we had with the technical science students. I am not talking about the efforts that had been made in education years before from the literacy campaign which has just marked its 25th anniversary up to the pedagogical detachment, which was the first one created in the centers for higher studies.

The country's first effort was actually in education. How did it do it in the higher centers when at one time there were not even high school graduates to enroll in the university? Now we are graduating tens of thousands. If we had not made the first effort in the educational field, we would not be able to speak today of the progress made in higher education. We would not be able to talk about what we have today. We would not be able to even talk of the problems we have today. These problems did not exist in the past, simply because this development in higher education did not exist.

That is how we began our efforts. That is how the idea of the medical sciences detachment arose. That is how the idea came about to solve the problem of textbooks for the medical sciences students. That is how the discussion of these problems came about at the meeting 2 years ago. The decision came about of assigning resources, for books to be printed, to the printing centers of the Higher Education Ministry and to the centers themselves, such as the CUJAE [Jose Antonio Echeverria University Center]. I was asking today if we have enough...[changes thought] Comrade Almeida was explaining to us that they needed a composition or recomposition -- I don't know exactly what it's called -- machine. It was indispensable, because they had one and with another they would multiply their capacity to print books. But there is no doubt that if you view it dispassionately, progress has been made. This can be seen in the list of 1,042 titles and how many are now available. You can see that the Culture Ministry is publishing more than 200. You can see how many the Higher Education Ministry's printing centers are producing, and how many the CUJAE itself. This was clearly seen here, that difficulties arose over the simplest things. It was not over the acquisition and installation of the machinery, the writing and publishing of the books. The problems stemmed basically from the distribution. But I am convinced that we are moving to solve that very important problem of the books in these branches and all the branches.

This is a must. How? The same way we have been solving problems in medical and technical sciences. Just look at the number of titles. Along with the mistake of superspecialization comes the super-amount of titles and books that we need. No less than 5,000. Billions of titles. That is, more than 2 million books or textbooks or volumes of 5,000 titles. It's the devil's work [es la tarea del indio]. Although we really have to make the effort and we have to know how to solve the devil's work.

These phenomena are linked. You examined here with the most thoroughness possible the cases of students who have not been placed, students from certain areas, especially the humanities. We have heard here lucid and precise explanation -- I would say brilliant -- of the comrade from the State Committee for Labor, telling us the problems there are in relation to the placement of certain specialties. It was said here, with a good deal of frankness, or clarity, that there are some cadres who stop more qualified personnel from coming in because they fear that this personnel might be better trained. It could be seen here that coordination is lacking among the state committee for labor, the higher education centers and graduating students, and the enrollment and graduation plans, among those in charge of placing them. In some cases it is not this or that national organ such as the Sugar, Agriculture, or Basic Industry Ministries. It is the people's governments. There is no coordination office in any of the people's government organs. So, I believe that everyone, the party in the first place, the state committee, the higher education center, should explore, find out where those humanities cadres are needed. How many are needed and what coordination and mechanisms are required. Because it is true that at the museums, the cultural modules, everywhere, we need to raise the level and qualifications of our cadres.

This is something that should not happen. Nor do I believe that it is very difficult to resolve.

Some worrisome problems were discussed here, such as the fact that there are students who are at the bottom of the pile and do not have the best records, and thus end up in certain careers for which they have no interest at all.

This give rise to waste of time, waste of important resources. This promises poor prospects to that branch where this kind of specialist ends up or works. Among other things, the problem of superspecialization was clearly seen here. I believe that it is one of the issues that we should be concerned about.

We have made progress in reducing the colossal number... [changes thought] we met here with some laughable examples. A specialist in the construction of airports is not wanted or placed. I think he was called airport construction engineer. Imagine. As if we were bigger than Brazil, which needs hundreds of airports. We are a very small country, long and wide [as heard], where the number of necessary airports is very limited. Why did we have to commit that folly? Why train an engineer specializing in the construction of airports? That is why I was saying that if we decided to build a small pyramid here for cultural or achitectural reasons, I have no doubt that there would be a pyramid engineering major. [applause]

That just complicates the situation. There are only 30 left in the CUJAE and they seem a lot. They will have to be cut, although I do not deny the need for specialties or deny that needs may arise around the specialties, the development of technology, science, society. But there is something that worries me a great deal, and I say it frankly. This is not something that I just thought of. When I made an incursion into the area of medicine, I argued a lot, and it was necessary to persuade many. And since they were really honest people, honest teachers, they were not only persuaded but also worked enthusiastically in the correct direction.

At the time, there was no rotating internship [internado rotatorio]. There was -- what is it called? -- a vertical [vertical] internship. All of this has a name: vertical. This one only for children and he knows nothing else. This one was a pediatrician and he did not know other things. They were underdeveloped doctors. Very fragmentary knowledge in the area of health. And I said many times: When will the rotating internship end? When will the rotating intership end? [repeats himself] There was a need for specialists and this need brought this about. But as soon as the situation eased, we took out the internship...[corrects himself] that is, there was a need for the vertical internship because of shortages in some specialties. But as soon as we could, we took out the vertical internship and we established the rotating internship for all doctors. Did we keep some in direct [directa] specialties? Yes, because some specialties require special manual abilities: ophtalmology, surgery. We said that once we have a doctor with a good grounding, 6 years of study, we then will have direct specialization. Not only in surgery. In some others we still do direct specialization. The student leaves the university and starts studying pediatrics, for example. But why? Because the polyclinics, which have also become teaching centers, need specialists to attend to family doctors and help to train them. Ah! Because it is an important concept that shows, let's say, adherence to the principle of the importance of basic education.

We brought it up. We proposed something that might have seemed a bit strange. We proposed the specialists in integral general medicine. Because I asked: who are the generalists here? And they called generalists those who graduated from the university and never again studied anything else. Or he did not study any specialty. The other, the one who studied 3 years, who did his internship, was called specialist in this or that area. And the other was called a generalist.

So I said: general medicine must be turned into a specialty. Yes, I have also contributed with a specialty. Specifically, the specialty of integral general medicine. It seemed a bit hard to understand. [applause] Well, our country is the only one that has that specialty. I have given so much importance to general medicine, that I proposed turning it into a specialty. And it seemed hard to understand. The idea had to be developed, the program drafted. That, of course, was going to give the generalist or the integral doctor a ranking among doctors. This would make it possible for all the country's doctors in the future to have the rank of specalist. That is, the one who studied at least 3 years, who studied systematically for 3 years, after the 6 years of training. So the program was drafted.

It was almost the same thing I told the agronomy comrades. When any country asked us for a doctor -- and they ask for many, there are around 1,500 or more working overseas -- what kind of doctor were we going to send?

Did we send an anesthesiologist? A radiologist? A surgeon? An orthopedist? What? Sometimes these specialists are needed, but when they ask you for a doctor for a town that has women, children, old people, men, all kinds of disease, what kind of doctor do we send? That doctor who never went back to school, perhaps? I said: They need a doctor who can help them. He must be able to treat a child, as well as a woman, an old person as well as a man, a pregnant woman as well as an adult woman in any other circumstances. Someone who could, plainly speaking, treat the whole population. Otherwise we would have to send three or four. The pediatrician, the obstetrician, and the internist.

No, sir; when a sound program was prepared, what should an integral generalist know? He must be strong in pediatrics, obstetrics, internal medicine, hygiene, have some knowledge of psychiatry, of health organization, a man who can be sent to Africa as well as to Latin America, Nicaragua or Guyana, or to an island in the Pacific, wherever we have doctors, and who can alone confront all health problems Of course, the other needs might arise later. A surgeon might be needed. And when a surgeon is needed, an anesthesiologist is needed. That is one of the so-called anemic specialties, because it does not attract too many. The number of anesthesiologists is usually low. Everywhere in the world. There's a shortage all over the world. He's the most in demand.

If specialists are needed you can send five specialists. And you can send 10 doctors who are experts in integral general medicine who can attend to the whole population. Well, the decision was made to create this specialty. Eminent professors drafted the program, and they drafted an excellent and strong program, which requires six textbooks. Almost all the textbooks have been written and published. We have a large number of family doctors studying the integral general medicine already.

After the first -- notice this -- after the first year, he graduates, 6 years of study, 1 year of work, the first year for those who are in the city, after 1 year they begin to study their speciality of integral general medicine at the polyclinic, in the same polyclinic where they are working, the one in their area. There they have an obstetrician for every 15 or 20 family doctors, an internist, a pediatrician, and this way the polyclinics have become excellent teaching centers. Because the family doctors go to learn there. Each one of the subjects. The first spcialists in integral general medicine have already graduated. Those did not even start out as family doctors. We sent them to the polyclinics to see how the program worked, what the quality of the program was. Well, next year we will have more than 2,000 enrolled in that specialty, and 1,500 more will enroll each year. In 1988, we will have 2,000 more, who will enroll as doctors and be studying by 1989. In the future, all the obstetricians, pediatricians, cardiologists, internists, in short, the majority of the clinical specialities will come from the specialist in integral general medicine as a second specialty.

And who will be a better doctor? The one who did vertical pediatrics? In the sixth year? Or one who graduated with a broad base? And he is going to work 1 year among the population, during which he will learn not only the health problems of the individual, but also the social problems, where they live, their conditions, everything. Then in 3 more years they become specialists in integral general medicine, working there with the children every day, and with the women, the elderly, the adults, and following a course of study under the direction of specialists. Then in the future, he goes back to school, does another residency and emerges as a pediatrician. He is going to be much better than the one who was in the vertical internship. Pediatrics only in the 6th year. From there to a residency. From there, to see children. He cannot in any way be a specialist of the standards of the one we are going to have when that pediatrician is a man with 11 years of systematic study -- the 6 of the course, the 3 of integral general medicine, and the 2 of pediatrics, when he will probably already have a strong background. Eleven years to become a pediatrician. I believe that no one who knows this can doubt that a much more qualified specialist will emerge from this program.

I have been defending these views. It has not been just here, at this congress, that my vehemence has surfaced in favor of the idea of a professional with a broad background. That is what I would like as a rule in agronomy, in many of the engineering specialists, in architecture.

We discussed the urban planner here. With all due respect for the urban planners. I respect them and I consider them necessary, but we learned that there was a demand for 422 urban planners, who, if needed some day for a construction project, would not know how to manage a construction project. All they know is how to draw projections for cities. We would like to have a good architect with a broad and deep basic education. Someone whom the corresponding organization will later develop, train as an urban planner, the same way that a polyclinic, even a polyclinic, can today train a resident in pediatrics or obstetrics or internal medicine.

The curious thing is that the comrades who were members of the physical planning group were all architects. None of them studied urban planning. They became urban planners later. They now want an urban planner of narrow profile.

An individual who, when he has no cities to draw plans for -- and some of the 422 may not be needed -- cannot be used to draw the projections for a building, a house, a school, a child care center. He cannot be used to lead a construction brigade, or stand next to the brigade leader keeping an eye on quality and helping with the organization of all the work.

To me this is very clear. I would have liked at least two basic specialties in agriculture. Two. Two [repeats himself] with broad knowledge that will allow for flexibility, for transfer from one area to another and then we train them. I know comrades who did not have the privilege of attending university, and yet it is amazing how much they know of cattle ranching, the handling of cattle, feeding of cattle, genetics, by simply working with them. There are some who are brilliant. They have been working for the same enterprise for more than 20 years. Attempts have been made to promote them to every kind of position. And I have asked: please don't touch him. That comrade has a lot of experience, has done a great job. Those are enterprises admired by visitors to our country. Work as there is no other in the rest of the world as far as cattle ranching is concerned. And they did not even have the privilege of attending university. That is why I say that any of the graduates, even with that kind of profile, can, with study and experience, acquire a very high level in his field.

I would argue in favor of the principle that we have applied with great results in medicine for all university careers. Let the specialists be given a basic and broad education. Let there be a system of post-graduate development. Of systematic post-graduate development. This one in this area, the other in that area. In production, the same way that medical specialists are trained in hospitals. Of course, because the higher education ministry was so obliging with the organs, which asked and and asked and demanded, the organs now can afford to not even cooperate with the higher education ministry, not even cooperate with the higher education centers. Because they have everything and have been able to say: hey, train me a specialist in airport construction, or naval transportation, or railroad transportation, or road transportation, or mule and horse transportation. [laughter] Engineers. [applause] If it wants, the production organ can later make him a mule specialist [laughter] In the mountains, picking coffee. In short, doing something. It's up to the organ and to the engineer, if he is willing to accept it. Because if I were that engineer, I would simply not accept it.

So it has a man with a broad background. And I want to say the following: Those who carried out the most marvelous construction work, gothic cathedrals and such, edifices famous all over the world, and great engineering feats all over the world, from the Egyptian pyramids on, those were not specialists of narrow profile. No specialists of narrow profile, simply narrow profile, would have been able to build those marvels in architecture, engineering, industry. No man of narrow profile can build those wondersa. Only a specialist of broad profile, who has experience, know-how, is capable of that in this branch or the other. In fact, the great achievements of today are a result of a combination of men, teams of diverse talents. That is the idea that I am defending. And no one should feel alluded to.

Of course, as Aesop said [laughter], create interests and you will have a hard time getting rid of them. [laughter, applause; someone says: "Habit, habit"] wasn't it that? Habit? OK, create habits. Yes. [applause] Aesop, as the comrade told us, used the word habit. I wanted to say afterward, create interests. Of course, if we have a school -- not a school, a university center, and it has 10 schools, we have 10 comrades -- and they are good comrades -- who have the title of dean.

A profusion of titles of nobility! [laughter] Mr Dean. Well, if we are going to fix things now and we replace three or four, have three or four less deans, we are affecting interests. Professors of this or that. They themselves will have to be reclassified, so they can teach another subject. The bad thing is that they might have narrow profiles [laughter] because if the only thing that they know how to teach is about truck wheels and the course on truck wheels is cnacelled, I don't know what the man will be good for. Let no one be offended. I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. I want to hurt the narrow concept of the narrow profile. [laughter] It's the only thing I want to hurt and we must learn to rectify it.

We are among revolutionaries and I do not presuppose a man in love with a title, a position, no university professor...[changes thought] because we do things wrong. Now that inflates the staffs like balloons, the staffs and the balloons.

We tell the world: We have a super center with 10 schools! [laughter] Watch out. And look at the organization chart, rah, rah, rah, rah, rah. It shows the rector, the rector's secretary, the rector's executive, the rector's assistant, and others. [laughter, applause] Later, it shows the dean, vice dean, the assistant, the other, the secretary, the rest, and the chart continues. Sirs, we have not asked ourselves here how much bureaucracy exists in the CUJAE.

It is now called somethig else, Elis? [laughter] How do you say it? ISPJAE [Jose Antonio Echeverria Higher Polytechnical Institute]. Yes, but I prefer to continue calling it CUJAE because I am already familiar with that name. Yes, it has given us quite a headache because it has been under construction for more years than those of Methuselah. More time. [interrupted by laughter, applause] The 800 [as heard] years, the 800 years [repeats himself] of Methuselah seem short compared to the time taken by that CUJAE or JAE, or whatever it will be called within the next hundred years [laughter] the combined, superspecialized center of technical-scientific specialties [laughter] with 500 specialities.

That is the truth. We have not asked how much bureaucracy exists there because it surely is stuffed. [laughter] There is not enough for the dining room, for transportation, there is not enough for anything. A good meal will never be available in the dining room. I have stated that in those centers which function properly, a restaurant-quality meal can be provided. We have some. They are in centers that have dedicated people. We have some experience.

If you have 350 or 400 people where you normally have 2,000 -- imagine 2,000, I do not exaggerate -- then you can serve a good meal. You can find homes. Many problems can be solved. You can solve problems with 400 that you cannot solve with 2,000.

I am sure that when we see the reasons for the lack of cost-effectiveness of some of these installations we'll find the under-utilization of the work day, disorganization, and excess personnel. That is what caught my attention when Argiuanabo was mentioned. It seemed unusual to me that they had a maximum number of workers and directors of production. It seemed strange to me that they still had losses. This has been greatly reduced but it has losses. That is the work of an economist. That is is the work of an economist [repeats himself] because it is not profitable. A mechanism has to be applied as a measure of efficency but it has to be efficient in reducing staff, rationalizing work, organizing it well, and having multi-positions [el multi-oficio]. many times one person cleans the walls, someone else cleans the windows, and someone else cleans the floors, three workers. They were specialists. We needed 3 or 4 workers because they were specialized. This also applied to sweeping the floor and cleaning windows. They began with the windows and so forth. That is so. It is that way in those centers.

I think an example...[changes thought] I was asking... [changes thought] It turned out that the cook got sick. There were 5 people in the kitchen for 400, not 50, like it is many times, and the principal cook got sick. And do you know who replaced him? The driver of two vehicles replaced him. [laughter] The driver of two vehicles replaced him [repeats himself]. He drove a truck and a bus. I wanted to meet him one day because of this and I asked him where he learned to cook. Well, when I was in the service he said, I was a cook there. I asked him, when you were in the kitchen, who was driving? I did, he said. When I finished cooking and the shift ended, he said, I drove them.

Because they name him the bus driver, and the bus might go out once or twice a day, the rest of the time the bus is idle, which pleases me, and so is the driver, which does not please me. The truck, the driver [as heard]. If the truck is not needed the driver is seated there. Why can he not do something else, work in the garden or fix something, clean, or help in the kitchen? In that center, several workers help in the kitchen, in anything. The result is that you have a truck driver driving around even when he's not needed, because the man get bored sitting there. He sometimes even goes to see his girlfriend with the truck or the bus.

It is not known how much these things cost, and that mania for staffs and inflated staffs is in everything, not just CUJAE, one can bet everything on it. Everything one has can be used to bet that there is a large amount of bureaucracy. One can wager that anywhere and not lose. That is the safest wager one can make in one's life but I would not advise it because gambling is prohibited and, in addition, the bet would be robbery. [applause] Interests emerge and resistance to organizations emerges. I would take them to a table, not of negotiation, but of serious discussion, and I think the party is the one which should direct that process of calm discussion -- that does not mean that tomorrow everyone starts running, or that there should be insecurity, fear, or [word indistinct], no, nothing of that sort. [laughter]

We cannot do anything in a hurry, rashly, or suddenly because everything has to be done with time, as we have done before in some things, such as medicine and the technical sciences, where we have been doing things slowly, not suddenly, and we are advancing slowly and resolving problems.

There is no doubt that during this congress, even your laughter reflected the fact that some of the things we have done are ridiculous. But, above all, we are demanding more and more from the concept of professionals with a deep and broad knowledge, specializing on the job, at the production center.

Well, physicians have to wait. A neurosurgeon has to study 10 years: 6 of medical training and 4 of specialization. It has been shown that specializations demand more years of training. There are many years. Any of these doctors have 1 extra year of training and later have 1 year of practical experience. Those who work in the mountains have 2 years. Simply because physicians are too widely scattered and they cannot continue their speciality training program. They are too far away. They would have to travel long distances every week or several times a week and this is not possible, this is not logical. So, they remain there for 2 years. They lose 1 year compared to others but after 2 years they come to the city and they begin their specialized residency as family physicians at the corresponding polyclinic.

Just today I received reports from fellow comrades who work with me and are visiting physicians in Guantanamo. There are some 150 physicians from Havana in the mountains of Guantanamo. There was no hesitation. To the contrary, there are 153 because over 150 have been chosen to have some as backup and when the program began, the ones who were considered backup showed up and said they could not be left out of the program. We had to transfer some people from Guantanamo to other jobs and give them the position. They are among the ones with the best records at Havana's School of Medicine. The comrades' reports are very good. The work those physicians are doing and their behavior are very encouraging. They are true residents of Havana. It is possible that some of them have never seen a mountain before. But their morale is as high as the palm trees.

It is one of the things I have to mention, that we really have to mention, because we have to acknowledge positive things, and the positive attitude university graduates have. It has been shown in many ways. No post was ever left vacant when they were needed as physicians, engineers, for any mission in the Armed Forces or as farmers, or agricultural experts.

I used an almost cruel, strong irony when I spoke to the comrade when he was saying a very good, noble thing. He said, we are willing and we want to be assigned to internationalist missions. I responded that the bad thing is that instead of helping we could take the country to bankruptcy. That is what I said that could have been considered an almost cruel irony as a response to that noble willingness. But I wanted something else. I wanted that internationalist spirit to be linked to a broader, more extensive, and more adequate training of our farmers, to give internationalism the quality of a profession so that an internationalist mission could be accomplished with the maximum efficiency. The world needs agricultural experts, the world needs farmers. But it will need farmers with an ample training because there are endless problems. All good farmers should have knowledge about the soil, fertilizers, plant diseases, irrigation, show know many things. He has to be a specialist in general comprehensive agriculture. [laughter] I consider veterinary separately. Let's not get involved in that sacrosanct field of animal health. Well, students have always had that willingness for everything. I am also pleased to tell you about the news we have received from the easternmost province.

I honestly believe that the idea I have been referring to is one of the lessons of this congress. We have to dwell on it and find out how to apply. I repeat, I insist that, in my opinion, the most important thing about this idea is the matter of an extensive and broad training. It is not self-contradiction. With a thorough specialization later on -- which we should somehow systematize, with some systematic studies. If someone wants to specialize in railroads, the program should be like that of the physicians, to work and study with the railroads. If he is going to specialize in something else, he should also have his program.

What have we done here? We have also copied, always copied. Medical school graduates complete 5 years of training -- well if we choose graduates, lets call them graduates. The next day after they graduate from the university they have no experience, no work. They are graduates of what, of whatever they like. They talk about being graduates on the job. Really, that became popular. If they were asked what they did, they called themselves doctors, they called themselves doctors. [repeats himself] That is why I changed the title. Traditionally physicians were called doctors. Later they were going to be called "licenciado" [college graduate] and I opposed that. I said, do not call them "licenciado," call them doctor and later refer to them according to their specialty. Somewhat superficially, these institutions have copied things and have wanted to apply them. I know that because we assigned some research centers to universities. I say with some sadness that some of those important centers -- because at one time we gave some of the best centers to the universities -- instead of solving the problems of the country and keeping an eye on what was going on in agriculture, stockbreeding, etc., basically concentrated on training medical school graduates, training doctors.

That is very good, I am happy about that, and I respect their degrees. But I believe that there should have been more requirements to grant degrees to graduates. There should have been more requirements. Some studied and conducted serious work but others did not do work of much value. In addition, they went to some countries and obtained their degree there and nobody tested them here. I believe that we should give our own degrees here with strict requirements.

I believe it would have been healthier to think about these kinds of things. To conduct systematic specialized training. Finally, I can even accept that they give the title of doctorate graduate and even doctorate degree in the specialty of railroads. Great, it is alright. In other words, we have not planned very well. Of course, this could not have been done from the first day.

Since there was a need to train a specialist quickly, as was the case of pediatricians, we had to use the narrow profile. It could have happened with some of these other specialities. But now that we have a large mass of trained people, since it is not that urgent, we can begin to have a more ambitious program to train these specialists, as we did in medicine, so that they have basic training -- not only 3 years but at least 5 years with more general courses during that time. It is something that needs to be studied. It cannot be improvised in just a few minutes.

Well, I am thinking about an idea which could also be basic as a result of the discussions. We believe that the higher education centers, in regard to the normal students, of the regular courses, should start forgetting, getting away from the idea of quantity to embrace the idea of quality. [applause]

I am not saying that there is no quality. There is quality, increasing quality as Comrade Vecino was saying. There has been quality within the massive training. Now we have to think each time less in terms of quantity and more and more in terms of quality. The fellow comrade from agronomy was saying that in a poll, 54 percent of the graduates had no idea of the objectives of the profession and had no interest in the profession. They simply chose it because they could not study any other thing because of their grade point average. It is something that should make us think.

What need do we have to train 54 percent with no vocation? What are we doing? What are we gaining with that? It is better to let half of them go and give better training, more time in the laboratories, everything to the rest. We gain in every sense by letting go half of them and keeping the ones who are really interested and have a calling for that profession. This was made evident here in the pedagogic detachment because of the number of those who joined because they did not make the grade for anything else. It clearly shows us that instead of admitting 7,000 we should admit 6,000, or 5,000, or 4,000, or 3,300 -- whatever -- but admit only those who have a real vocation and who love to teach. I believe we should do that in every field. We should not admit anyone who does not have a vocation, interest, true interest. We are in the position of doing that because we have more graduates.

There will be a time when we are going to have a surplus of professionals. We have even thought of creating a reserve of professionals, reserves. We are going to do the same thing in medicine. Unfortunately, we will do this in the year 2000. In the year 2000, maybe before, if we begin to graduate 4,000 students a year. We will need 10,000 more doctors after we have 65,000 to be able to grant the sabbatical year. We are ahead of teachers in that concept. We are thinking of applying it to teachers. It is possible that this may be a good idea to apply to all university-level professions within a system of continuous education, which is what we should aspire to. Professionals could have their reserves and we could graduate a greater number than we need. But we need quality. We could have more economists, engineers, architects. I do not know, lets say if we had 1,400 we could have 200 more so that every 7 years architects could have 1 year off to study the specialty in urban planning or whatever, after he has worked as an architect, when he knows how to build buildings or plan them. The idea of a reserve could be a good idea as a way to use our human resources. Many times I have said that to have an individual in an office doing nothing, without producing anything... [changes thought] if it is a job that can be done by others or with the help of computers, we could train him as a physician. He could be part of the reserve of physicians, engineers, architects, economists, teachers, or professors. That is possible. It would be a rational way of using resources within socialism. Because socialism is that. Do not think that socialism is the frivolous mercantilism some have invented with individuals making a profit by stealing and hiding the inflated payrolls, etc.

No, socialism is something else. It is above all that. It can entail the idea of reserves as a way of utilizing human resources. We now have... [changes thought] the idea of the reserves can wait. If we're going to have 90 percent excess, better to have 95. Let fewer enroll. But let's have the better qualified enroll, those who have not only intellectual, but political-moral qualifications, and who are interested in and have a calling for the career. It can be clearly seen now that we have to reduce enrollment in some instances so that those who are truly interested can enroll. They don't have to be 90,000. The number of university students can be 85,000 or 80,000 or 75,000 or 70,000. We don't have to rush it.

This is what I was referring to when I said I would speak about the matter later. There are some ideas that must be very clear. It was confirmed here, and it is evident, that the state is under the obligation to place the young people who are enrolling in the higher education centers as regular students. It could be seen here. It is logical. We are surprised that the poor man who specialized in airports is not employed. We'll have to invent at least a rice field and a landing strip on the rice field. Something will have to be done to find him employment.

It can be inferred that the state has the moral obligation to find employment for that young man whom it had studying 5 or 6 years. That is clear. Now, it is also clear that there are no problems with the tens of thousands of elementary school teachers who are studying for a degree in elementary education. They go to the elementary schools as graduates, with a much higher level of education. There is no problem. Whoever wants to can study that, whatever the number, through workers courses. Economists. People in production and services.

Now, those are supposed to be workers; they are working. This should not lead to the belief that once he has a degree the state has the obligation to place him in the same work center, in a position in keeping with his degree. As I have said other times, if a tractor operator wants to be a mechanical engineer, that's wonderful. Mechanical engineer. And if by taking courses he can become a mechanical engineer, the operator of a machine of some sort, then it should be so. We must give him facilities. We should not do away with workers' courses. But, it should be made very clear that it is impossible for society to guarantee the hundreds of thousands who want to take advantage of that possibility, positions as college professors or as planners [proyectistas]. It could be that he is very intelligent and one day he is sent there, but it should be clear that society cannot guarantee that workers a position come what may. Society must give priority -- and it must give them priority because they will be better educated -- to the young people, the regular students. That is as far as the state's obligation should go.

It does not have the same problem, I repeat, with the teacher, because he is already working and is studying to keep working there. I believe that a great number of the workers attending courses will be studying to remain in their positions, although some may be assigned certain tasks in accordance with their abilities and training.

There were distortions in all this, because as I have often said, even the best ideas are distorted; they often dengenerate. What was the situation in medicine? I was amazed. There were 40-year-olds enrolling in medical school. It seems to me that a man is rather grown at 40 to begin studying medicine. That was one of the first things that had to be straightened out. So we put a limit of 25 years for enrollment in the medical school. I will explain to you later why. There was something else that was incredible. The health worker had a feudal privilege in relations to medicine. If he worked in a stock room -- see how things are interpreted -- he attended the directed courses [cursos dirigidos] or the worker-peasant schools and had the right to study medicine, because he was working in the stock room of a hospital. They were 30, 35, and 40. What sense does that make? So we had to categorical: No one older than 25 enrolls. As for those who were already studying, we respected their rights. Those who already had 1 or 2 years of study, taking the last examinations. And we gave them more exams. Then, no older than 25.

Why the exception? It was established that health technicians could study as workers -- nurses, laboratory personnel, people who were working in the health sector. This was a way for those cases which had very good records, since no exceptions were ever made, not even in cases of hundredths of a point. I know cases of young men and women who had a strong calling and were unable to enroll because of a hundredth of a point. This way they had a chance.

They could enroll and study to become health technicians. As high school graduates, they could study health technology, and after they became health technicians, they had the right, by taking an exam, to enroll in a medical school. I know a few cases of people with a strong calling, young people who did just that. They went that course. But only intermediate medical technicians.

That is how things started to straighten up. But what does this have to do with the prospects of the revolution, which opened the doors of the university to workers many years ago? This was a great thing. It should be kept, first in a time of need, and later in the interest of self-improvement. I believe that these ideas should be clear, because it would be utopian to have hundreds of thousands of students and then have to find positions in accordance with their profiles, which, in addition, could be narrow profiles. This does not have any logic. That is why it is important to make this idea clear. The university will remain open to workers, but the obligation for placement in specific specialties, should be with the regular students. This does not mean that a factory can't take a worker who became an engineer and had a brilliant record and place him as an engineer.

This does not exclude that possibility. The possibility will exist. First, the possibility of self-improvement. A tractor operator-engineer must be a wonder. An engineer driving a harvester. Wonderful. Fixing it, checking what problems it has, even further developing the harvester. If he wants to be an engineer, let him become an engineer and keep driving the harvester. Or if he is so brilliant, they can send him to fix sugar mills. He will have the chance to improve himself. And there might be a chance that he will be used in something connected to his studies. But the priority, the moral obligation and even institutional obligation, we could say, is with the regular students.

So, it appears to us that we should start reducing the mass. We should go in search of quality. This is what the new stage is. Quality should become the focus of the Higher Education Ministry. We have made progress in this. There was a time when it was very linked to the work centers, and students worked regularly in the industries. We then decided to combine work and study in intermediate education, and have students in higher education get involved in activities related to their careers and as part of their training, their professional training. That step was taken. We assigned many more hours to study and we have made progress. Our teachers have gained experience, our institutions are developing. But we have to make quality the center of attention of the Higher Education Ministry and cut down on everything that in an irrational manner is hurting quality, is harming the country's resources, and is harming the future of the country, which is what we do when we graduate young people who are not interested in what they are doing, nor have the best records to do it. We will have to examine each career, wherever this phenomenon occurs which the comrades of the pedagogical detachment and the agricultural-livestock sciences were explaining to us.

We should not allow that in any university career. The time has come to make quality the fundamental objective, because the development achieved, the availability of cadres and technicians allows us this privilege, of concerning ourselves with the quality and not quantity of university graduates. There's nothing in saying, look, 30,000 or 4,0000; tell me how many have graduated through directed courses, through workers courses, and through regular courses.

Let us eschew the mystique of numbers and consider it a success in the future when they begin to tell us that the number of regular graduates is going down because that is what is in keeping with the concept of quality. Fortunately, we are able to aspire to that concept. Quality has to be the watchword of education, and it is becoming the watchword in all this process of rectification. There were mistakes. There were even mistakes in the self-improvement plan. It was shown that the self-improvement plan was not perfect, and that even what is perfect or aspires to perfection can be imperfect. There were mistakes. There was copying of certain concepts which are becoming antiquated today.

Of course, the concept perfectioning itself entailed the perfectioning of the perfected. And to perfect the perfected could imply rectifying the mistakes made in the perfectioning, or rectifying conceptual errors. That is the task of the perfectioning system. Self-perfectioning. Self-improvement.

In education, the battle in which the party and the country are engaged is for more quality in intermediate education. We have made progress, without a doubt. But we cannot feel satisfaction. There must be more quality. This cannot be achieved from one year to the next. This was demonstrated when there was a super-exigency that did not tally with the quality of the classes taught. That is why the second congress came up with adjustment [adecuacion]. Adjustment does not mean loosening up. It means to demand more but to adjust exigency to the quality of the teaching. Demand more from the student, demand more from the teacher. That cannot be accomplished in a single year. That is going to take 5 years. We must proceed step by step. What we had was going to become a disaster. Meetings are being held with methodologists, department heads, intermediate school directors. The ministry will soon have a full meeting with all these sectors.

We went from one extreme to the other. From the legitimate, healthy, and correct effort to teach the student, give him good classes, ask him to study, review the material with him if necessary, attend to him, to complete neglect of the student. A review is not cheating as long as the entire material is reviewed. If the teacher reviews 10 topics, the student gets the impression that the teacher wants to have a high passing rate, and is insinuating something very difficult to prove, but easy to deduce, that he is telling the student what the subject matter is.

Of course, there are new methods, the provincial exams or the exams centrally prepared by the ministry. We can guarantee both things. Increased exigency, the adjustment of that exigency to classes whose quality should also be demanded. That is the task at the intermediate level today. The intermediate level is very important; it precedes, it is the breeding ground for future students in the higher education centers. There is no doubt that the quality of the breeding ground is going to rise.

We already have the pre-university vocational schools of exact sciences. They are excellent institutions, excellent. I have had the opportunity to see how rigorous the program those students have to follow is. It is hard. I should tell you that they have 6 subjects in the morning alone, in 5 hours. In the afternoon they start at 1400 and finish at almost 1800, with a number of other classes. The exact sciences' students have one of the hardest programs I have ever seen. I thought it was an excellent group. They are not there as a privilege, it was never a privilege. All vocational schools are very strict in their requirements and demands. Those kids are admitted by considering their records and are also given an entrance examination. A large group of students is being trained with good quality. They can specialize in subjects such as physics, chemistry, electronics, mathematics, or biology. The program trains students for science-related professions. The biology majors will go to the school of biology or mainly to the school of medicine. But there is something that is very important. Each one of those students gets 90 hours a year of computer training. All of them, without exception. They will be admitted to the higher education centers with 270 hours of computer training. Notice what leap in quality.

This program is extended to the pre-university level of the technological schools. The students of all the pre-university schools in the country -- there is a program underway, the equipment is being obtained for them -- will have between 60 to 70 hours of computer training a year. They will graduate with a high school degree with close to 200 hours of computer training while they are in high school.

But there is more. Computer training will be introduced in basic secondary schools. This program will be completed in 1989. The necessary expenditures have been made for half of the equipment and in 1987 and 1988 the necessary investments will be made. All the necessary personnel is being trained for these programs in secondary schools.

In the past few years millions of dollars have been invested in computer sciences for higher education and this is already being applied. The program had already started when the meeting was held. The program is under way, personnel is being trained. The program will be completely implemented in 1990.

All technical sciences students will have between 60 and 70 hours of computer training. All the other fields, economy, etc., will also have computer training. Technical sciences' students will have approximately 300 hours of computer classes at the end of their training. If you add it to the courses they will take as students of exact sciences or secondary pre-university school, at the end the university graduates in the scientific or technical professions will have had over 500 hours of computer training. I think this will be a great leap in quality. They will master computers. This is essential in today's world and we will not fall too far behind. We could say that by struggling to achieve these goals, struggling to achieve a better selection, better prepared classes, better prepared professors, better use of the resources we have, we will be among the first in the world in the training of our professionals.

We can set very ambitious goals today. We are going to have excellent sources of material for the higher education centers. I believe this is very promising, really promising. One can see this in this congress. It is something worthy of the 28 years of revolution.

It is something worthy of a country that began fighting illiteracy by teaching 1 million people to read and write. We have just marked the 25th anniversary of this drive.

To speak of these things, to speak of these possibilities, to speak of this familiarization with the most modern techniques, of these concepts, of these ideas, is something very encouraging after 25 years of the literacy campaign and after 28 years of the triumph of the revolution.

The young lady reminded us when she was presenting the esteemed award that the revolution is 28 years old, it is 28 years and 10 days old. Twenty-eight years and 2 days ago we arrived in the capital. The problems were different then. We could not even dream about these encouraging things we are talking about today. We are also marking, I believe, 58 years from the death of Julio Antonio Mella. [applause] What better homage can we pay to Mella, to Jose Antonio Echeverria, to all the martyrs, to all those who struggled during those bitter and difficult days for the university reforms, for the revolution. What better homage than these ideas, these plans?

I believe this is a worthy tribute to those forerunners, those patriots. That tribute from now on is called quality, depth. Of course, the work of students is decisive. It will not only be the work of professors but it will have to be a shared effort between teachers and students.

I am not going to talk about few internal matters. You talked quite a bit about that, about what you have done, about what you are planning to do, of the weak points, of what needs to be improved. Of course, this also includes another concept within the integral training of the student. Study needs to be the center, the priority task. It is fine to try to include sports, culture, and everything else. But the center of the evaluation of a student should be his studies. Of course we have to avoid having students overburdened with excessive tasks that can be a detriment to their studies. It is true that when one is young many things can be done, miracles can be performed, and ambitious plans can be fulfilled. I agree with that. But study must be at the center of those ambitious plans.

Perhaps we should think about how we are going to modify the mechanisms for admission to the university.

Medical science has provided good experience. That is one thing in which we have to move away from the computers, from the numbers. We should develop criteria for admission. There should be a certain selection determined by knowledge. So far, the record has been the basis, but, of course, we have that the exact sciences students have a very hard program. To get a 97, 96, or 95 there is not easy. I could be that their average is lower but they know more. The relatives, of course, take the wrong tack. Not always, but almost always. They wanted a bonus. We asked: bonus? That is not correct. It smacks of privilege, of an easy thing. But it could occur that a young man with 270 hours of computer training who knows about electronics might not be able to enter the electronics school. That would hurt us. So, we must find criteria that are just, that do not imply privilege, but that are really accurate in the selection process.

We could combine, as they do in the exact sciences school, the record and the entrance examination. A certain number of points for the record, which could be 50 or 40 or less -- we'll have to do our addition right -- and a certain number of points for the exam, which could be 50, 55, 60 or more, whatever is decided. That way everyone will have a chance, even the high school graduates even if not exact sciences students. That would be much more fair, much more reasonable. If a student has a better record because the school is not strict enough, if he has a 95, and the other student has a 93, and they take a rigorous exam, the one who has 93 but knows more, if given a number of points for what he knows, could also get up to a 95 or 96. We must find a solution to the problem so that in the search for quality we select the best students, the more capable, while at the same time affording the opportunity of university admission to all, whether they come from an urban pre-university school or a rural pre-university school.

I think we will have to start getting away from the computers or using them as an auxiliary instrument to do the figuring, so the computer does not have the final say, because the computer only works with numbers and the numbers often don't reflect reality. Nor do all places have the same level of education, nor do all the centers have the same exigency. So, in order to ensure the possibility of studying within an adequate selection, we have to find fair, reasonable, and equitable formulas that will allow us to achieve these purposes.

In the future, beginning with this year, the number of male students who enter the university without doing military service will be less each year. This is a result of two things: The need of the country, the need of the universities, and the suitability of stimulating [estimular] the students' records. We should not give up on this. We can stimulate the record, it won't be 8,000 this year, it will be 7,000. But those 1,000 will be on a list so that they can do 1 year of service. The stimulus in this case will be that they will be away from their studies for only 1 year. In 1986 [corrects himself] in 1988, we'll have 1,000 less, and so on. We will reduce the number in accordance with the situation and the needs. There could be a number left over at the end, a minimal number. A very fair formula has already been introduced. That formula is one that involves the students, the so-called pre-military students, in which students who come out of the service will get another chance to study when they come back. When they are more mature, more studious. The record is not always the proof of intellectual capacity, because there are young people who are capable but who have no study habits, no discipline for study.

It was very fair to give those young people who did their duty by the fatherland the opportunity to enter university. Some of them are doing outstanding work. There are some of them right here, among yourselves, and they have spoken. I believe that the pre-military students are one of the fairest things we have done. But of course, we will still consider the average and the prerrogatives of those who have good records. If one day 4,000 enter directly, there will be 4,000 who will do a single year. It is possible that for some careers, the country's convenience will dictate doing the service at the end. Admit the young person and allow him to do the service later for a certain amount of time. But the majority will do it before. Down to 1 year, for those 8,000 who today are entering the university directly without having done their service. This will be done slowly so we won't leave a school bereft of males. But we can do it more and more as the ones returning from service enter university.

After 2 years, 2 and 1/2 years, or after 1 year when the young man is entitled on the basis of his record to certain prerogatives he will be a young man preassigned to enter university. He won the right, but he went to do 1 year of military service. It is time to rectify what could be or is an apparent injustice or a privilege. Some were doing 3 years of service and others did not do a single month. I believe that this topic will be discussed at the Congress of the Union of Young Communists in April. [applause]

Comrades, we expect great results from this congress. We expect that this congress will also be a historic turning point and a historic leap for the higher education centers. What am I basing my optimism on? On your human and revolutionary quality, on the human and revolutionary quality of our teachers. I base my optimism on the conviction that we will have ever higher standards in the centers, ever higher standards in the young people enrolling in these centers, increasing political knowledge, increasing political awareness, increasingly better programs, increasingly rational structure, and a more rational organization of our universities. I base my optimism on the fact that we will have an increasingly better youth. That is where success lies, we measure the achievements of the revolution when we see you. You will also measure the achievements of the revolution this way in the future when you observe the generations of students that come after you. We do not work for ourselves, we work for you. That is why we have the right to make demands. That is why we have the right to expect the best from you. We work for a world for you and if you are conscious that there are things that are wrong -- many -- we hope that in the future the problems will be different, not these, not these that we are rectifying and overcoming now. We hope that the problems of future generations are not the same. We'll have the books, the best matrixes and the best books, the laboratories, the computers, the buildings finished, and more buildings with less students. They will have more room. We will finish even the famous agronomy school. It has a new name now. The one in San Jose. That one. Yes, I assure you, I swear it, we will finish it one day. And we'll see the pedagogic school [applause]. We'll see the pedagogic school in Manzanillo. We'll see the swimming pool and the sports fields of the higher institute...[interrupted by applause] we will see the sports fields and the medical sciences schools all finished. [applause] We will see it all. We'll have better buildings. We will see the necessary arrangements made there where the construction was not carried out with the required quality. We will follow them closely. We will see them as wer overcome these problems. We hope that we will see much of this progress at the new congress, the fourth congress, many of these problems solved, many of these ideas applied, many of these concepts applied.

If in the future we have much better higher education centers, they will be the higher education centers headed by you. In your country, in your era, so that when you become specialists, broad based specialists of deep profiles, for your industries, your services, your society ... [changes thought] that is what we are working for. I want to tell you that this must be your task, you must feel responsibility for these tasks. We will all continue to work. The next generation will do the utmost to try do it as well as possible. This generation began with a closed university. This generation began when the doctors, engineers, the university professors had fled. All of them. This generation had to struggle under difficult conditions. Today it has 25,000 doctors, and 40,000 more in sight. A large number of them already in the medical sciences schools. Now we have hundreds of thousands, now we can speak about these things. Imagine, when you have these hundreds of thousands university cadres with even higher educational levels, better institutions of every kind.

We have no doubt that it will be a world worth fighting for, worth shouldering the responsibility for.

I don't have to appeal to your emotions. I don't have to appeal to your revolutionary feelings, because my optimism, based on many things, is fundamentally based on that, on your revolutionary spirit. My optimism is based on the attitude shown here, the courage, the frankness, the words, the eloquence with which most of you have spoken here. We are all greatly impressed. All of us who have had the privilege of participating in the congress, all who have sat up here will take with us a great impression. I say this with much conviction. I hope, too, that no one will leave hurt and that we will all leave with a profound optimism in the future, with profound commitment to this great battle of rectification of errors, of struggle against negative tendencies. A historic turning point, a historic leap in the revolution. Fatherland or death, we shall win! [applause]

JOINT C.A. COMMISSION FACES U.S. 'INTERFERENCE'

FL191858 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Announcer-read report over video of Perez de Cuellar, others at United Nations]

[Text] As expected, the joint mission of the United Nations, the OAS, and the Contadora and Support Groups arrived this morning in San Jose, Costa Rica, from Panama. The tour of the group of 10 will mark a definitive step in the Contadora peace efforts in Central America. One of the visitors' first tasks will be a meeting with Costa Rican head of state Oscar Arias, who will give his views about peace in the area. Arias emphasized that his views are supported by the U.S. Administration, especially Vice President George Bush. The Costa Rican president's suggestions are aimed against Nicaragua to try to pressure the Sandinist government to engage in negotiations with the mercenary gangs, an option repeatedly rejected by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

The maneuver is an attempt to again dash the chances for an agreement that will conclude armed hostilities once and for all in the region, where Washington's allies, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, form a bloc opposing Nicaragua.

The joint mission will have to define the basis for negotiations to draft a new agreement, but the job the group of 10 has ahead in the next few hours is not easy, because there are difficult problems still to be solved, especially because of U.S. interference in the region and its interest in destroying the Sandinist revolution.

As a matter of fact, Peruvian Foreign Minister Allan Wagner declared that the present American Administration had put all sorts of obstacles to Contadora and was permanently sabotaging peace in Central America.

JAMAICA

MEXICO AGREES TO REORGANIZE DEBT PAYMENTS

FL201556 Bridgetown CANA in English 1533 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 20, CANA -- Mexico has agreed to consolidate and restructure U.S. 58 million dollars owing to it by Jamaica, the way having been paved by this island's new stand-by credit agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Central Bank here announced.

The bank said that under the agreement with Mexico signed January 16, the debt is to be paid over nine years with a two-year grace period at seven percent interest.

This is Jamaica's first reorganisation of debt payments this year under the 15-month stand-by facility with the IMF under which the island is to draw down U.S. 132.8 million dollars.

Jamaica has a foreign debt of U.S. 3.5 billion dollars.

As part of the rescheduling programme the government is to go to the Paris Club in March in a bid to deal with some U.S. 200 million dollars in payments falling due in 1987 and 1988, Prime Minister Edward Seaga said last week.

Jamaica is also expected to seek rescheduling of smaller amounts from Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago, which were on its list of creditors from which it asked for new terms in 1984, finance sources said.

However, this could not be immediately confirmed with the Central Bank.

With rescheduling, Jamaica has a debt payment ratio of about 40 percent.

REPORTAGE ON 'TOP DELIBERATING COUNCIL' MEETING

Wants Netherlands Envoy

FL202108 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] The top deliberating council yesterday announced that once again Suriname wants to seat an ambassador in Holland.

Two years ago, Suriname scaled down its diplomatic representation in Holland to that of charge d'affaires in protest against the Dutch attitude against Suriname.

The embassy in The Hague will now have more manpower. Since the top-deliberating council is of the opinion that the relationship with Holland must be normalized, it hopes this step will bear a good result.

Direct Election 'Not Possible'

FL202036 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] The partners in the top deliberating council have decided that in the new democratic structures, the president will be elected by the National Assembly and not directly by the people.

All groups represented in the National Assembly will be able to nominate candidates for the post afterwhich the president will be elected.

Direct election is not possible under the present circumstances because the process for unity has not yet been materialized.

Chairman of the top deliberating council Desi Bouterse last Sunday [18 January] told the Records Board that the council wants to prohibit elections based on racial lines as were witnessed before 1980.

Bouterse Sees Records Board

FL192142 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] The parties in the top deliberating council have not yet reached agreement on the political administrative model for the conduct of the next general elections.

This was disclosed yesterday by government leader and chairman of the top deliberating council, Desi Bouterse, when he spoke at the third national meeting of the Records Board. The board has requested this meeting seeking clarification on their position in the new constitution. They also want to be a party to the drafting of this constitution.

The Association of Surinamese Manufacturers, the Labor Movement, and the February 25 Movement have presented a model for the political-administrative order to the top deliberating council.

The Records Board supported this model in a resolution, which was presented to Commander Bouterse at the end of the meeting.

During a meeting of the Records Board yesterday, Commander Bouterse explained the points on which the old political parties expressed disagreement with the political-administrative order submitted by the Association of Surinamese Manufacturers, the Labor Movement, and the February 25th movement.

The political parties are of the opinion that representation in the National Assembly must be determined on the bases of proportional representation. However, the other three partners are of the opinion that all members of the district council must become representatives in the National Assembly.

The old political parties also disagree with the conditions that candidates must live in the areas they seek to represent. They also disagree with the new drawing-up of the districts which took place some 2 years ago. The political parties argue that under this system, intellectuals will not have the possibilities to participate. They also believe that manipulation in the districts and the restriction for the intergration of the people will occur.

The chairman of the top deliberating council believes that agreement can be reached with the old political parties. If not, the National Assembly will have to draw up a new proposal, he added.

STAATSOLIE OIL COMPANY DISCOVERS NEW OIL FIELD

FL190342 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0027 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Paramaribo, 16 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Large quantities of commerical oil were discovered this week by the state oil company, Staatsolie, near (Juliushoop) on the right [as received] bank of the Rio Saramacca in Western Suriname.

Even though large operations are needed to determine the exact size of the oil field, it is estimated to hold a least 1 million barrels of oil, said the SNA [SURINAMESE NEWS AGENCY].

The quality of the oil contained in the 5-meter thick stratum discovered at a depth of approximately 300 meters is equal to the quality of the nearby [two previous words rendered in English] Tambaredjo oil field recently exploited by Staatsolie. Oil company experts think the new deposit is an extension of the Tambaredjo.

Staatsolie recorded a 67-percent increase in production in 1986 with production totalling 675,000 barrels. Daily production rose in 1,100 barrels at the end of the 1985 to 2,500 barrels in 1986. However, the 4-year development plan is intended to increase production to 4,000 or 5,000 barrels by 1990. The 1987-1990 plan also includes the construction of a $50 million refinery which would become operational at the end of 1990.

The country's oil reserves are estimated to be 300 million barrels.